

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

4 FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2773

By: Munson

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6  
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to wrongful convictions; amending 22  
9 O.S. 2021, Section 19, as amended by Section 2,  
Chapter 143, O.S.L. 2022 (22 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section  
10 19), which relates to procedures for filing requests  
for expungement; authorizing expungement hearings  
11 within certain period of time; establishing notice  
requirement; amending 51 O.S. Section 154, which  
relates to The Governmental Tort Claims Act;  
12 modifying scope of certain definition; increasing  
liability amount for claims of wrongful  
13 incarceration; providing for supplemental  
compensation under certain circumstances; authorizing  
14 standard annuity payments; providing guidelines and  
limitations for standard annuity payments; allowing  
15 claimants to obtain group health benefit plan  
coverage through the Department of Corrections;  
16 providing limitations; requiring payment of monthly  
contribution for coverage; modifying effective dates  
17 for certain claims; directing the Department of  
Corrections to provide certain notice to wrongfully  
18 imprisoned persons; providing for the waiver of  
resident and nonresident tuition, room and board, and  
19 mandatory fees for wrongfully incarcerated persons  
and their children; providing limitation for credit  
20 hours; defining term; providing for codification;  
providing an effective date; and declaring an  
21 emergency.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

2 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2021, Section 19, as  
3 amended by Section 2, Chapter 143, O.S.L. 2022 (22 O.S. Supp. 2022,  
4 Section 19), is amended to read as follows:

5 Section 19. A. Any person qualified under Section 18 of this  
6 title may petition the district court of the district in which the  
7 arrest information pertaining to the person is located for the  
8 sealing of all or any part of the record, except basic  
9 identification information.

10 B. The process for the automatic expungement of a clean slate  
11 eligible case as defined in subsection C of Section 18 of this title  
12 is as follows:

13 1. On a monthly basis, the Oklahoma State Bureau of  
14 Investigation shall identify cases which are clean slate eligible by  
15 conducting a search of the criminal history repository records of  
16 the Bureau;

17 2. The Bureau shall, on a monthly basis, provide a list of  
18 clean slate eligible cases to the prosecuting agency and the  
19 arresting agency;

20 3. The prosecuting agency, arresting agency, and the Bureau  
21 may, no later than forty-five (45) days from the day on which the  
22 notice described in paragraph 2 of this subsection is transmitted,  
23 object to an automatic expungement and such objection shall be  
24

1 transmitted to all parties. An objection may be made for any of the  
2 following reasons:

- 3 a. after reviewing the agency record, the agency believes  
4 the case does not meet the definition of a clean slate  
5 eligible case,
- 6 b. the individual has not paid court-ordered restitution  
7 to the victim, or
- 8 c. the agency has a reasonable belief, grounded in  
9 supporting facts, that an individual with a clean  
10 slate eligible case is continuing to engage in  
11 criminal activity, whether charged or not charged,  
12 within or outside the state;

13 4. If an agency identified in paragraph 3 of this subsection  
14 objects for a reason described in paragraph 3 of this subsection  
15 within forty-five (45) days of the day on which the notice described  
16 in paragraph 2 of this subsection is transmitted, the record shall  
17 not be expunged. Once a year, the Bureau shall submit a report to  
18 the Legislature with a list of all cases where a record was not  
19 expunged pursuant to this paragraph; and

20 5. After forty-five (45) days pass from the day on which the  
21 notice described in paragraph 2 of this subsection is sent, the  
22 Bureau shall provide to the courts a list of all cases where  
23 responses from all parties were received and no parties objected.  
24 The court shall review this list and provide to all agencies that

1 have criminal history records a signed expungement order for all  
2 cases approved. Upon receipt of a signed expungement order, each  
3 agency shall seal the relevant records.

4 The Bureau and the Oklahoma Supreme Court may promulgate rules  
5 to govern the process for automatic expungement of records for a  
6 clean slate eligible case in accordance with this subsection.

7 C. 1. Nothing in this section precludes an individual from  
8 filing a petition for expungement of records that are eligible for  
9 automatic expungement under subsection C of Section 18 of this title  
10 if an automatic expungement has not occurred pursuant to subsection  
11 B of this section.

12 2. An individual does not have a cause of action for damages as  
13 a result of the failure of the Bureau to identify a case as eligible  
14 for automatic expungement.

15 D. An automatic expungement granted under subsection B of this  
16 section does not preclude an individual from requesting the  
17 unsealing of records in accordance with subsection O of this  
18 section.

19 E. Upon the filing of a petition or entering of a court order  
20 as prescribed in subsection A of this section, the court shall set a  
21 date for a hearing and shall provide thirty (30) days of notice of  
22 the hearing to the prosecuting agency, the arresting agency, the  
23 Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and any other person or  
24

1 agency whom the court has reason to believe may have relevant  
2 information related to the sealing of such record.

3 F. Upon a finding that the harm to privacy of the person in  
4 interest or dangers of unwarranted adverse consequences outweigh the  
5 public interest in retaining the records, the court may order such  
6 records, or any part thereof except basic identification  
7 information, to be sealed. If the court finds that neither sealing  
8 of the records nor maintaining of the records unsealed by the agency  
9 would serve the ends of justice, the court may enter an appropriate  
10 order limiting access to such records.

11 Any order entered under this subsection shall specify those  
12 agencies to which such order shall apply. Any order entered  
13 pursuant to this subsection may be appealed by the petitioner, the  
14 prosecuting agency, the arresting agency, or the Oklahoma State  
15 Bureau of Investigation to the Oklahoma Supreme Court in accordance  
16 with the rules of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. In all such appeals,  
17 the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation is a necessary party and  
18 must be given notice of the appellate proceedings.

19 G. Upon the entry of an order to seal the records, or any part  
20 thereof, or upon an automatic expungement described in subsection B  
21 of this section, the subject official actions shall be deemed never  
22 to have occurred, and the person in interest and all criminal  
23 justice agencies may properly reply, upon any inquiry in the matter,  
24

1 that no such action ever occurred and that no such record exists  
2 with respect to such person.

3 H. Inspection of the records included in the order may  
4 thereafter be permitted by the court only upon petition by the  
5 person in interest who is the subject of such records, the Attorney  
6 General, or by the prosecuting agency and only to those persons and  
7 for such purposes named in such petition.

8 I. Employers, educational institutions, state and local  
9 government agencies, officials, and employees shall not, in any  
10 application or interview or otherwise, require an applicant to  
11 disclose any information contained in sealed records. An applicant  
12 need not, in answer to any question concerning arrest and criminal  
13 records, provide information that has been sealed, including any  
14 reference to or information concerning such sealed information and  
15 may state that no such action has ever occurred. Such an  
16 application may not be denied solely because of the refusal of the  
17 applicant to disclose arrest and criminal records information that  
18 has been sealed.

19 J. All arrest and criminal records information existing prior  
20 to the effective date of this section, except basic identification  
21 information, is also subject to sealing in accordance with  
22 subsection F of this section.

23 K. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the  
24 physical destruction of any criminal justice records.

1 L. For the purposes of this section, sealed materials which are  
2 recorded in the same document as unsealed material may be recorded  
3 in a separate document, and sealed, then obliterated in the original  
4 document.

5 M. For the purposes of this section, district court index  
6 reference of sealed material shall be destroyed, removed or  
7 obliterated.

8 N. Any record ordered to be sealed pursuant to this section, if  
9 not unsealed within ten (10) years of the expungement order, may be  
10 obliterated or destroyed at the end of the ten-year period.

11 O. Subsequent to records being sealed as provided herein, the  
12 prosecuting agency, the arresting agency, the Oklahoma State Bureau  
13 of Investigation, or other interested person or agency may petition  
14 the court for an order unsealing said records. Upon filing of a  
15 petition the court shall set a date for hearing, which hearing may  
16 be closed at the discretion of the court, and shall provide thirty  
17 (30) days of notice to all interested parties. If, upon hearing,  
18 the court determines there has been a change of conditions or that  
19 there is a compelling reason to unseal the records, the court may  
20 order all or a portion of the records unsealed.

21 P. Nothing herein shall prohibit the introduction of evidence  
22 regarding actions sealed pursuant to the provisions of this section  
23 at any hearing or trial for purposes of impeaching the credibility  
24

1 of a witness or as evidence of character testimony pursuant to  
2 Section 2608 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

3 Q. If a person qualifies for an expungement under the  
4 provisions of paragraph 3 of subsection A of Section 18 of this  
5 title and said petition for expungement is granted by the court, the  
6 court shall order the reimbursement of all filing fees and court  
7 costs incurred by the petitioner as a result of filing the  
8 expungement request.

9 R. If a person qualifies for an expungement under the  
10 provisions of paragraph 3 or 4 of subsection A of Section 18 of this  
11 title, the person may request a hearing be set within thirty (30)  
12 days after the date of filing the petition for expungement. The  
13 court shall grant the request for the hearing and shall provide a  
14 notice of no less than ten (10) days for said hearing to the  
15 prosecuting agency, the arresting agency, the Oklahoma State Bureau  
16 of Investigation, and any other person or agency whom the court has  
17 reason to believe may have relevant information related to the  
18 sealing of such record. Any order entered pursuant to the  
19 provisions of this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of  
20 subsections F through P of this section.

21 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 51 O.S. 2021, Section 154, is  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 Section 154. A. The total liability of the state and its  
24 political subdivisions on claims within the scope of The

1 Governmental Tort Claims Act, arising out of an accident or  
2 occurrence happening after October 1, 1985, Section 151 et seq. of  
3 this title, shall not exceed:

4 1. Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for any claim or  
5 to any claimant who has more than one claim for loss of property  
6 arising out of a single act, accident, or occurrence;

7 2. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, One Hundred  
8 Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) to any claimant for a  
9 claim for any other loss arising out of a single act, accident, or  
10 occurrence. The limit of liability for the state or any city or  
11 county with a population of three hundred thousand (300,000) or more  
12 according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, or a political  
13 subdivision as defined in subparagraph s of paragraph 11 of Section  
14 152 of this title, shall not exceed One Hundred Seventy-five  
15 Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00). Except however, the limits of the  
16 liability for the University Hospitals and State Mental Health  
17 Hospitals operated by the Department of Mental Health and Substance  
18 Abuse Services for claims arising from medical negligence shall be  
19 Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00). For claims arising from  
20 medical negligence by any licensed physician, osteopathic physician  
21 or certified nurse-midwife rendering prenatal, delivery or infant  
22 care services from September 1, 1991, through June 30, 1996,  
23 pursuant to a contract authorized by subsection B of Section 1-106  
24 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes and in conformity with the

1 requirements of Section 1-233 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
2 the limits of the liability shall be Two Hundred Thousand Dollars  
3 (\$200,000.00); or

4 3. One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for any number of claims  
5 arising out of a single occurrence or accident.

6 B. 1. Beginning on ~~May 28, 2003~~ July 1, 2023, claims shall be  
7 allowed for wrongful criminal felony conviction resulting in  
8 imprisonment if the claimant has received a full pardon on the basis  
9 of a written finding by the Governor of actual innocence for the  
10 crime for which the claimant was sentenced or has been granted  
11 judicial relief absolving the claimant of guilt on the basis of  
12 actual innocence of the crime for which the claimant was sentenced.  
13 The Governor or the court shall specifically state, in the pardon or  
14 order, the evidence or basis on which the finding of actual  
15 innocence is based.

16 2. As used in paragraph 1 of this subsection, for a claimant to  
17 recover based on "actual innocence", the individual must meet the  
18 following criteria:

- 19 a. the individual was charged, by indictment or  
20 information, with the commission of a public offense  
21 classified as a felony,  
22 b. ~~the individual did not plead guilty to the offense~~  
23 ~~charged, or to any lesser included offense, but was~~  
24 ~~convicted of the offense,~~

1 e. the individual was sentenced to incarceration for a  
2 term of imprisonment as a result of the conviction,

3 ~~d.~~

4 c. the individual was imprisoned solely on the basis of  
5 the conviction for the offense, and

6 ~~e.~~

7 d. (1) in the case of a pardon, a determination was made  
8 by either the Pardon and Parole Board or the  
9 Governor that the offense for which the  
10 individual was convicted, sentenced and  
11 imprisoned, including any lesser offenses, was  
12 not committed by the individual, or

13 (2) in the case of judicial relief, a court of  
14 competent jurisdiction found by clear and  
15 convincing evidence that the offense for which  
16 the individual was convicted, sentenced and  
17 imprisoned, including any lesser included  
18 offenses, was not committed by the individual and  
19 issued an order vacating, dismissing or reversing  
20 the conviction and sentence and providing that no  
21 further proceedings can be or will be held  
22 against the individual on any facts and  
23 circumstances alleged in the proceedings which  
24 had resulted in the conviction.

1           3. A claimant shall not be entitled to compensation for any  
2 part of a sentence in prison during which the claimant was also  
3 serving a concurrent sentence for a crime not covered by this  
4 subsection.

5           4. The total liability of the state and its political  
6 subdivisions on any claim within the scope of The Governmental Tort  
7 Claims Act arising out of wrongful criminal felony conviction  
8 resulting in imprisonment shall ~~not exceed One Hundred Seventy five~~  
9 ~~Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00)~~ be in an amount equal to Fifty  
10 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) multiplied by the number of years  
11 served in prison, expressed as a fraction to reflect partial years.

12           5. In addition to the award of damages provided for in  
13 paragraph 4 of this subsection, a claimant who served his or her  
14 time on death row shall be entitled to receive supplemental  
15 compensation in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00)  
16 multiplied by the number of years the person served on death row,  
17 expressed as a fraction to reflect partial years.

18           6. In addition to the award of damages provided for in  
19 paragraph 4 of this subsection, a claimant who was released on  
20 parole or released under conditions of probation shall be entitled  
21 to receive supplemental compensation in the amount of Twenty-five  
22 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) multiplied by the number of years the  
23 person was on parole or under probation, expressed as a fraction to  
24 reflect partial years.

1       7. A claimant entitled to compensation under the provisions of  
2 this subsection shall be entitled to standard annuity payments.  
3 Standard annuity payments shall be based on a present value sum  
4 equal to the amount to which the claimant is entitled under  
5 paragraphs 4, 5, or 6 of this subsection. Standard annuity payments  
6 shall be payable in equal monthly installments for the life of the  
7 claimant. Annuity payments shall be based on a five percent (5%)  
8 per annum interest rate and other actuarial factors within the  
9 discretion of the Director of the Office of Management and  
10 Enterprise Services. Annuity payments under the provisions of this  
11 paragraph shall not be accelerated, deferred, increased, or  
12 decreased. A claimant entitled to annuity payments under the  
13 provisions of this paragraph shall not sell, mortgage or otherwise  
14 encumber, or anticipate the payments, wholly or partly, by  
15 assignment or otherwise.

16       8. A claimant entitled to compensation under the provisions of  
17 this subsection shall be eligible to obtain group health benefit  
18 plan coverage through the Department of Corrections as if the person  
19 were an employee of the Department. The provisions of this  
20 paragraph shall not entitle the spouse or other dependent or family  
21 member to group health benefit plan coverage. Coverage may be  
22 obtained under the provisions of this paragraph for a period of time  
23 equal to the total period the claimant served for the crime for  
24 which the claimant was wrongfully incarcerated, including any period

1 during which the claimant was released on parole or released under  
2 conditions of probation. A claimant who elects to obtain coverage  
3 under the provisions of this paragraph shall pay a monthly  
4 contribution equal to the total amount of the monthly contributions  
5 for that coverage for an employee of the Department.

6 9. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to convictions  
7 occurring on ~~or before May 28, 2003,~~ as well as convictions  
8 ~~occurring~~ and after May 28, 2003 July 1, 2023. ~~If a court of~~  
9 ~~competent jurisdiction finds that retroactive application of this~~  
10 ~~subsection is unconstitutional, the prospective application of this~~  
11 ~~subsection shall remain valid.~~

12 C. No award for damages in an action or any claim against the  
13 state or a political subdivision shall include punitive or exemplary  
14 damages.

15 D. When the amount awarded to or settled upon multiple  
16 claimants exceeds the limitations of this section, any party may  
17 apply to the district court which has jurisdiction of the cause to  
18 apportion to each claimant the claimant's proper share of the total  
19 amount as limited herein. The share apportioned to each claimant  
20 shall be in the proportion that the ratio of the award or settlement  
21 made to him bears to the aggregate awards and settlements for all  
22 claims against the state or its political subdivisions arising out  
23 of the occurrence. When the amount of the aggregate losses  
24 presented by a single claimant exceeds the limits of paragraph 1 or

1 2 of subsection A of this section, each person suffering a loss  
2 shall be entitled to that person's proportionate share.

3 E. The total liability of resident physicians and interns while  
4 participating in a graduate medical education program of the  
5 University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, its affiliated  
6 institutions and the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and  
7 Surgery shall not exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00).

8 F. The state or a political subdivision may petition the court  
9 that all parties and actions arising out of a single accident or  
10 occurrence shall be joined as provided by law, and upon order of the  
11 court the proceedings upon good cause shown shall be continued for a  
12 reasonable time or until such joinder has been completed. The state  
13 or political subdivision shall be allowed to interplead in any  
14 action which may impose on it any duty or liability pursuant to The  
15 Governmental Tort Claims Act.

16 G. The liability of the state or political subdivision under  
17 The Governmental Tort Claims Act shall be several from that of any  
18 other person or entity, and the state or political subdivision shall  
19 only be liable for that percentage of total damages that corresponds  
20 to its percentage of total negligence. Nothing in this section  
21 shall be construed as increasing the liability limits imposed on the  
22 state or political subdivision under The Governmental Tort Claims  
23 Act.

1 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 360.2 of Title 57, unless there  
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The Department of Corrections shall provide to each  
5 wrongfully imprisoned person information, both orally and in  
6 writing, that includes:

7 1. Guidance on how to obtain compensation pursuant to  
8 subsection B of Section 154 of Title 51 of the Oklahoma Statutes;  
9 and

10 2. A list of and contact information for nonprofit advocacy  
11 groups, identified by the Department, that assist wrongfully  
12 imprisoned persons in filing claims for compensation under The  
13 Governmental Tort Claims Act.

14 B. The Department shall provide the information:

15 1. At the time of the release of the wrongfully imprisoned  
16 person from a penal institution; or

17 2. As soon as practicable after the Department has reason to  
18 believe that the person is entitled to compensation.

19 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3218.7-2 of Title 70, unless  
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 A. Within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or the  
23 system of career technology districts, no resident tuition,  
24

1 nonresident tuition, room and board, and any mandatory fees  
2 associated with such attendance shall be charged to:

3 1. A person who was wrongfully incarcerated and awarded  
4 compensation pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 2  
5 of this act; and

6 2. Children of any person wrongfully incarcerated and the  
7 person was awarded compensation pursuant to the provisions of  
8 subsection B of Section 2 of this act.

9 B. Such waiver of resident tuition, nonresident tuition, room  
10 and board, and mandatory fees associated with such attendance shall  
11 be limited to one hundred twenty (120) credit hours.

12 C. As used in this section, the term "children" includes  
13 children by birth and by adoption.

14 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

15 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
16 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
17 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
18 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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