

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 362

By: Thompson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to court funding; creating the
8 Council on Justice System Funding; providing a sunset
9 date; outlining focus of the Council; providing for
10 membership; providing for election of the chair;
11 requiring certain meeting; requiring quorum for
12 certain action or recommendation; requiring certain
13 adherence; allowing certain reimbursement; providing
14 for administrative support; requiring certain report
15 and findings be provided; providing for codification;
16 and providing an effective date.

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 983c of Title 22, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

23 A. There is hereby created the Council on Justice System
24 Funding until December 1, 2023. The Council shall:

25 1. Study current financial obligations of criminal defendants
26 and how those financial obligations are used to fund and subsidize
27 core functions of the court system;

28 2. Study and determine optimal methods of supporting and
29 funding the court system without the use of criminal fines and fees;

1 3. Research methods for tracking the collective total of fines
2 and fees assessed annually to felony defendants; and

3 4. Research methods for tracking the distribution of criminal
4 fines, fees and court costs upon collection.

5 B. The Council shall be comprised of fourteen (14) members as
6 follows:

7 1. The Administrative Director of the Courts, or designee;

8 2. A District Court Judge, to be appointed by the
9 Administrative Director of the Courts;

10 3. A District Attorney, who is currently serving in that
11 capacity, who shall be appointed by the District Attorneys Council;

12 4. A representative of the Probation and Parole Services unit
13 of the Department of Corrections, who shall be appointed by the
14 Director of the Department of Corrections;

15 5. A public defender, who shall be appointed by the
16 Administrative Director of the Courts;

17 6. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense
18 System, or designee;

19 7. The Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, or
20 designee;

21 8. The Chair of the House of Representatives Appropriations and
22 Budget Committee, or designee;

23 9. The Governor, or designee;

1 10. One current member of the Senate who shall be appointed by
2 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

3 11. One current member of the House of Representatives who
4 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

5 12. A member of a nonprofit organization whose focus is on
6 criminal justice reform, who shall be appointed by the President Pro
7 Tempore of the Senate;

8 13. A member of a nonprofit organization whose focus is on
9 criminal justice reform, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of
10 the House of Representatives; and

11 14. A member of the business community, who shall be appointed
12 by the Governor.

13 C. The Chair of the Council shall be elected by majority vote
14 of the Council members. The Chair shall call the first meeting no
15 later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act.
16 The Council may meet as often as necessary in order to perform the
17 duties imposed upon it. A quorum of the Council shall be required
18 to approve any final action or recommendation of the Council. For
19 purposes of this section, eight members of the Council shall
20 constitute a quorum.

21 D. The meetings of the Council shall be subject to the
22 provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

23 E. The members of the Council shall receive no compensation,
24 but travel reimbursement may be provided by their respective
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1 organizations within the limits provided for state employees in the
2 State Travel Reimbursement Act.

3 F. Administrative support for the Council shall be provided by
4 the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.

5 G. The Council shall submit a report of its findings and
6 recommendations including fiscal impact statements on all of the
7 recommendations of the Council, annually by November 1, 2022, and
8 the same day thereafter to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore
9 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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