

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL

DATE: 6/27/2025

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S):

Waldron, John

TOPIC OF THE PROPOSAL:

Alternative Sentencing Diversion Programs for Low-Level Felony Offenders

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY PROPOSAL:

- a) This study proposes evaluating the creation of an alternative sentencing diversion program modeled after the DUI statute, which offers court-supervised treatment and accountability in lieu of incarceration.
- b) The goal is to assess the feasibility, structure, and cost-benefit of implementing such diversion programs for qualifying defendants who present minimal public safety risk.
- c) The study will explore successful diversion models in other states, the potential fiscal impact on the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, and public safety outcomes.
- d) A diversion pathway for low-level felony offenders could reduce recidivism, lower prison population costs, and improve long-term habilitation outcomes—offering support for behavioral, social, and economic stability beyond substance use treatment.
- e) The proposed program would provide a more effective and less costly alternative for both defendants and the State of Oklahoma.

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