

# SB1646

## Felony Sentencing Reform

### What does SB1646 do?

**Senate Bill 1646** will create a felony classification system for Oklahoma that provides more consistency in sentence lengths and ensures that sentence enhancements for certain crimes are used appropriately. It will reduce the prison population all while preserving public safety.

- This bill works off of the classification system recommended by the Attorney General's Resentencing Council, but leaves 85% crimes alone, and imposes appropriate sentence enhancements.
- Unlike previous legislation from last session, it does not eliminate sentence enhancements -even for nonviolent crimes -instead keeping those enhancements reasonable.
- Modifies some minimums by changing it to zero so local judges can have more control over how they treat those crimes.
- Appropriately caps fines to reasonably collectible amounts for most classes

The policy under SB 1646 will allow for communities to redirect appropriate cases to diversion and treatment programs while supporting local control.

### Fiscal Impact

A recent study found that by standardizing sentencing practices within felony classes (passing SB1646) could amount to **\$16.8M in reduced marginal incarceration costs over 10 years**, while reducing prison populations in Oklahoma by 969.

All crimes and offenders are not the same. Treating an individual suffering from addiction the same as a violent predator does not make sense. Sentences should remain consistent while granting judges greater discretion at sentencing to tailor a punishment to the individual and specific crime to achieve the best long-term outcome for both the offender and society.

Decades of evidence show that lengthy, mandatory sentences do not reduce crime, but impose high economic and social costs on taxpayers and families.

**Since 2000, the average prison sentence given in Oklahoma has grown by 1.2 years, a 17% increase. In short, the current way of doing business isn't sustainable.**

### The Conservative Approach