



OFFICE OF

No. HB 3159

**THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., June 10, 2016

TIME SIGNED: 1:57pm

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SECOND SESSION OF THE
FIFTY FIFTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL NO. 3159:

This is to advise you, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED House Bill 3159.

House Bill 3159 creates the net effect of increasing all 85% crimes to 95% crimes, unless the offender is recommended by the Pardon and Parole Board and approved by the Governor for parole. Current law requires these offenders to serve 85% of their sentence, day for day, before they are eligible to receive any credits towards their sentence, or eligible for release on parole. Of the current population in the custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC), 28.1% (approximately 7,800) of the offenders are serving an 85% sentence. Over the last decade, the 85% offender population has almost tripled, and consistently rises each year, as a result of more offenders being sentenced than are released, and additional crimes being added to the 85% list.

HB 3159 is not an evidence-based policy shown to improve public safety. As a result, HB3159 creates an enormous fiscal burden upon the State of Oklahoma with no corresponding public safety benefit.

Oklahoma has made considerable progress towards criminal justice reform and reducing our incarcerated population, but the need for more substantial progress remains, as our State still maintains the nation's highest incarceration rate for women and one of the highest for men. HB 3159's policies are inconsistent with this progress, and inconsistent with the critical justice reform measures I have signed into law this session. For these reasons, I have VETOED House Bill 3159.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

By Colette H. Stauch

Date/Time 6/10/16 5:20 pm

RECEIVED

JUN 10 2016

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

A.C. @ 5:31pm