



SB 1557

OFFICE OF

**THE GOVERNOR**  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

No. \_\_\_\_\_

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

TIME SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA  
SENATE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
FIFTY-NINTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED SENATE BILL NO. 1557:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution,  
I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1557.

In Oklahoma, the accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Senate Bill 1557 departs  
from this principal by allowing prosecutors to bring evidence of a defendant's prior conduct to  
persuade a jury that the defendant cannot change, and therefore must be guilty.

This sort of evidence, commonly called propensity evidence, as contemplated by Senate Bill 1557  
is impermissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence. This is because such evidence is extremely  
prejudicial to defendants and obfuscates the prosecution's duty to show that a defendant committed  
a specific act, at a specific time, against a specific victim. In Oklahoma, the innocent will not suffer  
in an attempt to convict the guilty.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 1557.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. R. McInnis", written over a horizontal line.

SENATE:

By L. R. McInnis

Date/Time April 24 2:00 PM