

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 4324.

House Bill 4324 would allow district attorneys to modify a criminal sentence after conviction. A more common term for this is clemency, which is a power that constitutionally belongs to the Governor and the Pardon and Parole Board.

This bill would also create serious opportunities for abuse. Allowing district attorneys to revisit and reduce final criminal sentences could invite back-room deals, political favoritism, and pressure campaigns.

District attorneys and judges have important roles in the criminal justice system. The clemency process is different. It is entrusted to constitutional officers and carried out through a structure designed for that purpose. This bill would blur those lines and weaken the finality, fairness, and integrity of criminal sentencing.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 4324.