



JOBS NOT JAILS

AN ACT FOR JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

Senate Bill 791 and House Bill 2308

Lead sponsors: Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz and Rep. Mary Keefe

- Ends the failed program of statutory mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes and restores judicial discretion to determine sentences.
- Eliminates probation and parole fees for indigent people that now trap them in poverty and lengthen their punishment.
- Increases the dollar amount for a felony in larceny cases to \$1500. The present \$250 amount (unchanged in 30 years and among the lowest in the nation) captures too many low level offenses as felonies.
- Improves CORI and other laws to increase court efficiency, workforce participation and re-entry success:
 1. Changes the definition of CORI to exclude cases dismissed before arraignment and certain juvenile youthful offender adjudications that now appear on CORI reports.
 2. Reduces long 5 and 10 year waiting periods for sealing records to 3 and 7 years which is consistent with recidivism studies and will get people back to work and in housing.
 3. Permits people to say “I have no record” sealing when applying for housing and occupational licenses after records are sealed in addition to when applying for jobs.
 4. Changes the law to permit sealing of convictions for resisting arrest so that people with past addictions, mental health challenges or related issues do not have a life-time CORI.
 5. Requires jails and prisons to provide information to inmates to assist in preventing unfair accumulation of massive child support debts during incarceration and requires the Probation Department to establish a system for easy correction of CORI database errors.
- Directs a portion of the savings resulting from reduced incarceration to a Trust Fund for job creation for persons with high barriers to employment.
- Establishes a system for the transfer of terminally ill prisoners to a facility other than a prison for medically appropriate care.