



JOBS NOT JAILS COALITION SAYS: LET'S FINISH THE JOB OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Following the completion of the Council on State Governments study, Governor Baker has proposed legislation to increase opportunities for inmates to earn good conduct credits and early parole release. That's a start, but much more needs to be done to reform our criminal justice system

OUR TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mandatory Minimum Sentences. Ending the failed and costly program of mandatory minimum sentences for drug crimes and returning the task of sentencing to judges.

CORI Consequences. Preventing, reducing or eliminating CORI consequences and barriers to jobs and other opportunities that shut people out of the economy, including:

- Reducing long 5 and 10 year waiting periods for sealing of misdemeanor and felony records to 3 and 7 years to be consistent with recidivism studies and to get people back to work.
- Changing the law to permit sealing of resisting arrest convictions because at the present time, these cases can never be sealed and give people life time CORI.
- Changing the definition of CORI to exclude cases dismissed before arraignment and certain juvenile court youthful offender adjudications that now appear on adult CORI reports.
- Permitting a person whose CORI record has been sealed to say "I have no record" when applying for housing and occupational licenses after records are sealed—not just when applying for jobs, as is currently the case.
- Requiring the Probation Department to create a system for easier correction of CORI records and database errors, and requiring prisons and Houses of Correction to provide information to inmates about the child support enforcement services to help prisoners avoid the accumulation of massive child support debt, which can impede their successful re-entry.

Felony Larceny Threshold. Updating the amount at which larceny becomes a felony from \$250 (one of the lowest amounts in the nation) to \$1500, to stop making felons of countless people charged with low level crimes.

Fees and Fines. Increasing fine time (the credit given inmates jailed for failing to pay a fine) from the present \$30 per day to \$90 or more per day, and ending or reducing probation, parole and other fees that make criminal cases drag on, trap people in poverty, and lead to re-incarceration.

TOP PRIORITY BILLS

An Act Eliminating Mandatory Minimum Sentences Related to Drug Offenses (HB741 and SB819). Lead sponsors: Sen. Cynthia Creem, Rep. Evandro Carvalho.

An Act for Justice Reinvestment (HB2308/SB791). Lead sponsors: Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, Rep. Mary Keefe.

An Act Promoting Community Prosperity by Further Reforming Criminal Offender Record Information (HB3084). Lead sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Malia.

An Act to Reduce the Criminalization of Poverty (HB2359/SB777). Lead sponsors: Sen. William Brownsberger, Rep. Chynah Tyler.

An Act Relative to Larceny (SB873/HB967). Lead sponsors: Sen. Patricia Jehlen, Rep. Chynah Tyler.

An Act Restricting Fine Time (SB755/HB3077). Lead sponsors: Sen. Michael Barrett, Rep. Mary Keefe.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Too many of our brothers and sisters are locked up and/or shut out of the economy because of past criminal records. You can make a difference! Call your state representative and senator at the statehouse at 617-722-2000 and ask them to work hard on criminal justice reform and support our priorities and the bills list above.

JOBS NOT JAILS

Jobs NOT Jails is a statewide coalition of community groups, labor unions, legal services organizations and religious based groups. The Jobs NOT Jails Steering Committee includes the Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ), Ex-prisoners and Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement (EPOCA), Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N), Mass. Communities Action Network (MCAN), Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), SEIU1199 and SEIU 509.

For more information, contact: