

Reform Criminal Justice

Early Parole/Older Inmates

Original Bill: [HB 352](#) **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 352 **Sponsor:** Hannegan, Tom (R)

Description: Authorizes the early parole of certain offenders over the age of sixty-five.

Position Statement: Support: Older inmates who have served much of their sentence merit a parole hearing to see if they are rehabilitated and can re-enter society. In A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice (2000), the Catholic Bishops state: "We believe that both victims and offender are children of God. Despite their very different claims on society, their lives and dignity should be protected and respected. We seek justice, not vengeance. We believe punishment must have clear purposes: protecting society and rehabilitating those who violate the law." 01/11/18

Last Action: 03-11-19 H Set on the House Calendar

Minimum Prison Sentences

Original Bill: [HB 113](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Smith, Cody (R)

Description: Allows the court to depart from minimum sentencing provisions in certain circumstances.

Position Statement: Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the bishops reject simplistic solutions to crime such as rigid mandatory sentencing saying, "We must renew our efforts to ensure that the punishment fits the crime. Therefore, we do not support mandatory sentencing that replaces judges' assessments with rigid formulations." 01/25/19

Last Action: 02-21-19 S Reported to the Senate and first read

Original Bill: [HB 304](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Roberts-77, Steve (D)

Description: Provides that certain mandatory minimum sentences may be discretionary and creates provisions when a person is eligible for a parole hearing.

Position Statement: Support: In their 2000 statement Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the bishops reject simplistic solutions to crime such as rigid mandatory sentencing saying, "We must renew our efforts to ensure that the punishment fits the crime. Therefore, we do not support mandatory sentencing that replaces judges' assessments with rigid formulations." 01/25/19

Last Action: 1-10-19 H Read second time

Original Bill: [SB 8](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Emery, Ed (R)

Description: Allows courts to depart from a statutorily required minimum prison term when sentencing a defendant.

Position Statement: Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the bishops reject simplistic solutions to crime such as rigid mandatory sentencing saying, "We must renew our efforts to ensure that the punishment fits the crime. Therefore, we do not support mandatory sentencing that replaces judges' assessments with rigid formulations." 01/25/19

Last Action: 03-11-19 S Meeting set for 2:00 PM, SCR 1, Senate-Judiciary/Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence

Offering Life With Parole vs Without

Original Bill: [HB 195](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Neely, James (R)

Description: Allows a court to reduce a life without parole sentence to a sentence of life with eligibility for parole in certain circumstances.

Position Statement: Support: In their 2000 statement, Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, the bishops call for a renewed emphasis to be placed on parole and probation as an alternative to incarceration. Offenders should have a reasonable opportunity to obtain parole after serving an appropriate amount of time. 01/25/19

Last Action: 02-21-19 H Public hearing completed

Reforms Private Probation

Original Bill: [HB 80](#) **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 80 **Sponsor:** Hill, Justin (R)

Description: Changes the law regarding private probation supervision services by prohibiting drug and alcohol screen tests unrelated to the offense and requiring the use of earned compliance credits.

Position Statement: Support: Probation providers should be limited in the requirements they are permitted to impose upon offenders as a matter of justice and the legitimate exercise of public authority. 01/25/19

Last Action: 03-07-19 H Reported do pass House-Rules-Administrative Oversight

Repeals Court Costs/Fines for Offenders

Original Bill: [HB 192](#) **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 192 **Sponsor:** DeGroot, Bruce (R)

Description: Modifies provisions relating to the payment fines by offenders.

Position Statement: Support: Board bills and other court costs imposed on individuals convicted of minor offenses are unjust and punitive and fail to serve as a just means of correction. 01/25/19

Last Action: 03-04-19 S Reported to the Senate and first read

Restorative Justice

Original Bill: [SB 364](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Williams, Brian (D)

Description: Creates an income tax deduction for the hiring of certain felons.

Position Statement: Support: By giving employers an incentive to hire felons, this legislation promotes restorative justice principles recognized in Catholic social teaching. 02/19/19

Last Action: 2-28-19 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate-Ways and Means

Restoring Work Opportunities

Original Bill: [HB 564](#) **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 564 **Sponsor:** Grier, Derek (R)

Description: Establishes the "Fresh Start Act of 2019".

Position Statement: Support: This legislation promotes restorative justice by assisting offenders with licensure so that they can return to gainful employment. This promotes restorative justice principles promoted by the Church. In a restorative justice approach to crime, the offender is held accountable, the victim is restored, and the community plays a role in restoring the offender to society. 02/19/19

Last Action: 03-12-19 H Meeting set for 12:00 PM or Upon Morning Recess, South Galle, House-Fiscal Review

Original Bill: [SB 251](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Koenig, Andrew (R)

Description: Creates the "Fresh Start Act of 2019".

Position Statement: Support: This legislation promotes restorative justice by assisting offenders with licensure so that they can return to gainful employment. This promotes restorative justice principles promoted by the Church. In a restorative justice approach to crime, the offender is held accountable, the victim is restored, and the community plays a role in restoring the offender to society. 02/19/19

Last Action: 2-25-19 S Hearing conducted

Wrongful Convictions/Compensation

Original Bill: [HB 692](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Bosley, LaKeySha (D)

Description: Increases the amount a wrongfully imprisoned person may receive from \$50 per day to \$100 per day.

Position Statement: Support: As a matter of justice, persons wrongfully convicted deserve compensation. This legislation increases the compensation already provided under current law. 02/19/19

Last Action: 2-27-19 H Public hearing completed

Original Bill: [SB 488](#) **Amended Bill:** **Sponsor:** Rizzo, John (D)

Description: Provides that exonerated felons may be paid restitution.

Position Statement: Support: As a matter of justice, persons wrongfully convicted deserve compensation. This legislation addresses the compensation already provided under current law. 02/19/19

Last Action: 02-28-19 S Introduced and read first time
