### Reform Criminal Justice

#### Early Parole/Older Inmates

**Original Bill:** HB1534  
**Amended Bill:**  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Barbara Washi  
**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." 01/24/20  
**Last Action:** 01/09/2020 H - Read Second Time

#### Expungement

**Original Bill:** HB1592  
**Amended Bill:**  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Ashley Bland M  
**Description:** Changes offenses not eligible for expungement.  
**Position Statement:** Support: Allowing offenders to have their criminal record expunged is a means of restorative justice by giving the offender an opportunity to return to being a productive member of society. 01/24/20  
**Last Action:** 01/09/2020 H - Read Second Time

**Original Bill:** SB519  
**Amended Bill:**  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Shalonn (Kiki)  
**Description:** Modifies provisions regarding the expungement of records.  
**Position Statement:** Support: Allowing offenders to have their criminal record expunged is a means of restorative justice by giving the offender an opportunity to return to being a productive member of society. 01/24/20  
**Last Action:** 01/09/2020 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

#### Offering Life With Parole vs Without

**Original Bill:** HB2254  
**Amended Bill:**  
**Sponsor:** Rep. James Neely  
**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:** 01/23/2020 H - Read Second Time

#### Restoring Voting Rights

**Original Bill:** SB542  
**Amended Bill:**  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Jamilah Nashe  
**Description:** Removes provisions prohibiting persons on probation or parole after conviction of a felony from voting.  
**Position Statement:** Support: Restoring the right of offenders to vote is a means of restorative justice by removing an impediment to the offender participating in the political process. 01/24/20  
**Last Action:** 01/09/2020 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence
### Restoring Work Opportunities

**Original Bill:** HB2141  
**Amended Bill:**  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Derek Grier (R)

**Description:** Establishes the "Fresh Start Act of 2020".

**Position Statement:**  
Support: This legislation promotes restorative justice by assisting offenders with professional 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. 01/24/20

**Last Action:** 01/23/2020 H - Referred to House committee on Corrections and Public Institutions

### Work Opportunities for Prior Offenders

**Original Bill:** SB647  
**Amended Bill:**  
**Sponsor:** Sen. Andrew Koenig

**Description:** Establishes the Fresh Start Act of 2020.

**Position Statement:**  
Support: This legislation promotes restorative justice by assisting offenders with professional 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. 01/24/20

**Last Action:** 01/30/2020 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing

### Work Opportunities for Prior Offenders

**Original Bill:** HB1468  
**Amended Bill:**  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Cheri Toalson

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to certain persons found guilty of criminal offenses.

**Position Statement:**  
Support: The Missouri Catholic Conference supports reform of the criminal justice system to ensure that offenders are given a fair opportunity for work after serving their sentences without being burdened by limitations on employment opportunities upon release. 01/24/20

**Last Action:** 01/30/2020 H - Referred to House Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight