

## Reform Criminal Justice

### Alternative Sentencing for Caregivers

**Original Bill:** [HB1291](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. David Evans (

**Description:** Changes the law regarding probation.

**Position Statement:** Support: In keeping with the principle of subsidiarity, judges should have discretion to sentence nonviolent offenders to local programs that allow offenders to remain in the community and care for their children rather than prison terms that result in children being placed in foster care. 02/19/20

**Last Action:** 01/16/2020 H - Referred to House Committee on Judiciary

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**Original Bill:** [SB813](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. David Sater (R)

**Description:** Creates provisions allowing certain offenders to be eligible for community-based sentencing.

**Position Statement:** Support: In keeping with the principle of subsidiarity, judges should have discretion to sentence nonviolent offenders to local programs that allow offenders to remain in the community and care for their children rather than prison terms that result in children being placed in foster care. 02/19/20

**Last Action:** 02/13/2020 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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### 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

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**Original Bill:** [HB2034](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Tom Hannegan

**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." 02/19/20

**Last Action:** 03/18/2020 H - Placed Back on Formal Perfection Calendar

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### 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

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**Original Bill:** [SB1068](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Sen. Brian Williams

**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:** 02/27/2020 S - Introduced and Read First Time

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**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

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### Gain Time for Good Behavior

**Original Bill:** [HB2197](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Shamed Dogan

**Description:** Authorizes good time credit for certain offenders.

**Position Statement:** Support: Inmates serving a term of years should be provided gain time for good behavior as a reward and an incentive. 02/19/20

**Last Action:** 01/16/2020 H - Read Second Time

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### Juvenile Sentence Review

**Original Bill:** [HB2201](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Nick Schroer (

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to sentence review for certain persons.

**Position Statement:** Support: Juvenile offenders sentenced as adults to prison should be afforded a reasonable opportunity for parole after a term of years that recognizes their immature developmental state at the time of the offense. 02/19/20

**Last Action:** 02/06/2020 H - Referred to House Committee on Judiciary

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### Minimum Prison Sentences

**Original Bill:** [HB2333](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Wiley Price (D)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to minimum prison terms.

**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." 02/19/20

**Last Action:** 01/30/2020 H - Read Second Time

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## 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. 02/19/20

**Last Action:** 01/23/2020 H - Read Second Time

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## Reforms Private Probation

**Original Bill:** [HB2335](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. Justin Hill (R)

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating to probation.

**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. 02/19/20

**Last Action:** 01/30/2020 H - Read Second Time

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## Restoring Professional Licensing

**Original Bill:** [HB2141](#)    **Amended Bill:** HCS HB 2141    **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:** 03/10/2020 H - Reported Do Pass Committee

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**Original Bill:** [SB647](#)    **Amended Bill:** SCS SB 647    **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:** 03/26/2020 S - Formal Calendar S Bills for Perfection

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## Restoring Voting Rights

**Original Bill:** [HB2410](#)    **Amended Bill:**    **Sponsor:** Rep. LaKeySha Bost

**Description:** Modifies provisions relating voter qualifications.

**Position Statement:** Support in part: Restoring the right of offenders to vote after serving their term in prison is a means of restorative justice by removing an impediment to the offender participating in the political process. 01/24/20

**Last Action:** 02/10/2020 H - Read Second Time

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**Original Bill:** [SB542](#)      **Amended Bill:** SCS SB 542      **Sponsor:** Sen. Jamilah Nashe

**Description:** Removes provisions prohibiting persons on probation or parole after conviction of a felony from voting.

**Position Statement:** Support in part: Restoring the right of offenders to vote after serving their term in prison is a means of restorative justice by removing an impediment to the offender participating in the political process. 01/24/20

**Last Action:** 03/26/2020 S - Formal Calendar S Bills for Perfection

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### 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: Offenders should be 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:** 03/12/2020 S - Referred to Senate Committee on Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence

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