



Please Co-sponsor An Act for Justice Reinvestment

Lead sponsors: Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz and Rep. Mary Keefe
(Senate Docket 1128 and House Docket 2714)

Key Bill Provisions:

- 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.
 6. 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.

First Parish in Needham Unitarian Universalist Church (Jan. 22, 2017)

HOW CAN I HELP END MASS INCARCERATION IN MASSACHUSETTS?

Let your elected representatives know you support criminal justice reform and ask them where they stand

- Citizen input is essential to make legislative change
- Support specific bills or speak up for criminal justice reform in general
- Find your elected representatives at www.WhereDoIVote.com. Email format for Senators and State Representatives and staff is firstname.lastname@masenate.gov or firstname.lastname@mahouse.gov. Don't overlook your elected county District Attorney and Sheriff or your local Police Chief.
- Attend legislative committee hearings to show support or provide testimony

Stay Informed

- Use the Jobs NOT Jails website at www.exprisoners.org/jn/
- Subscribe to the Criminal Justice Policy Coalition's free weekly email at www.cjpc.org to learn about upcoming events.
- Work with UU Mass Action Network at www.uumassaction.org
- Find specific bills and the bill sponsors/co-sponsors at www.MAlegislature.gov [note that bill numbers change as a bill moves through the legislative process – follow the bill history]
- Review the Council of State Governments study of the state criminal justice system at www.csjjusticecenter.org/ma/.

Support the Jobs NOT Jails coalition – a grass roots movement

- Join rallies to show support
- Add your organization to the 135 "participating organizations" listed on the Jobs NOT Jails website (see above)
- Volunteer your services to end mass incarceration
- Provide financial support