

The Second Chance Act of 2007

H.R. 1593 / S. 1060

Purpose

The Second Chance Act is a modest, commonsense response to the increasing number of people who are released from prison and jail and returning to communities. There are currently 1.7 million people serving time in our federal and state prisons, and millions of people cycling through local jails every year. Ninety-five percent of all prisoners incarcerated today will eventually be released and will return to communities. The Second Chance Act will help ensure the transition people make from prison or jail to the community is safe and successful.

Sponsors

Senators Joseph Biden (D-DE), Arlen Specter (R-PA), Sam Brownback (R-KS), and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL), Chris Cannon (R-UT), John Conyers (D-MI), Lamar Smith (R-TX), Bobby Scott (D-VA), Randy Forbes (R-VA), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)

Key Provisions

Demonstration Grants. Provides grants to states and local governments that may be used to promote the safe and successful reintegration into the community of individuals who have been incarcerated. Allowable uses of funds include mentorship, housing, education and job training, engagement with community colleges, family programming, initiatives addressing victim priorities and restorative justice, research to improve the effectiveness of release and revocation decisions using risk assessment tools, and re-entry court programs.

Children and Families. Resources provided in the bill could be used for a variety of family strengthening programs such as maintaining family relationships when a parent is incarcerated, identifying barriers to collaborating with child welfare agencies in providing services, collecting information regarding dependent children of incarcerated persons, and developing programs that support parent-child relationships.

Federal Taskforce. Creates interagency taskforce to identify existing re-entry resources, develop interagency initiatives and a national re-entry research agenda, and report recommendations to Congress.

Mentoring Grants. Provides grants to nonprofit organizations that may be used for mentoring of adult offenders or providing transitional services for re-integration into the community.

Drug treatment grants. Grants to improve the availability of drug treatment to offenders in prisons, jails and juvenile facilities. To qualify, an eligible entity would have to show that during the previous fiscal year the entity doubled the number of offenders who actually received drug treatment from the prior fiscal year.

Prison-based family treatment programs. Authorizes grants to States, local governments, and Indian tribes to develop and implement prison-based, family-based treatment programs for incarcerated parents who have minor children.

Federal Reentry Initiative. Provides guidance to the BOP for enhanced reentry planning procedures. Specific information on health, employment, personal finance, release requirements and community resources shall be provided to each inmate released.

Total Authorization: \$165 Million

To review the full text of the bill:

<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR01593:@@P>