

Senate Bill 91

An Overview

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The Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)

Justice reinvestment is a data-driven approach to improve public safety, examine corrections and related criminal justice spending, manage and allocate criminal justice populations in a more cost-effective manner, and reinvest savings in strategies that can hold offenders accountable, decrease crime, and strengthen neighborhoods.

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

Greg Razo (Chair)

Justice Alexander Bryner

Senator John Coghill

Commissioner Gary Folger

Jeff Jessee

Representative Wes Keller

Commissioner Walt Monegan

Hon. Judge Stephanie Rhoades

Attorney General Craig Richards

Lieutenant Kris Sell

Brenda Stanfill

Quinlan Steiner

Hon. Judge Trevor Stephens

Alaska Native Justice Center

Alaska Supreme Court (retired)

Alaska State Senate

Alaska Department of Public Safety

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Alaska House of Representatives

Alaska Department of Corrections

Anchorage District Court

Alaska Department of Law

Juneau Police Department

Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living

Alaska Public Defender

Ketchikan Superior Court

Summary of Data Findings

PRETRIAL

- The number of pretrial inmates in Alaska has **grown by 81%** over the last decade. Today, they comprise **28% of the prison population.**
- Pretrial inmates are **staying behind bars longer** than they were ten years ago:
 - Nonviolent misdemeanor defendants: up 3 days on average
 - Violent misdemeanor defendants: up 6 days on average
 - Nonviolent felony defendants: up 20 days on average
 - Violent felony defendants: up 33 days on average
- Sample bail file review:
 - **52% of sampled defendants were never released pretrial**
 - 12% of sampled defendants were released on person recognizance
 - 10% of sampled defendants were released on unsecured bond
 - 1/3 of those with bail set at \$500 or less were unable to pay it
 - 2/3 of those with bail set at \$2,500 or more were unable to pay it
 - 3/4 of those with third-party custodian were never released pretrial

Summary of Data Findings

SENTENCING

- The number of sentenced offenders in prison has grown 14% over the last decade.
- 82% of offenders sentenced to a prison term are for misdemeanors.
- 3/4 of offenders sentenced to a prison term are for nonviolent offenses.
- Felony offenders are staying in prison 31% longer on average than they did ten years ago.
 - Class A felonies: staying 80% longer
 - Class B felonies: staying 8% longer
 - Class C felonies: staying 17% longer
- Prison admissions for drug offenses have grown by 35%. Felony drug offenders are also spending 16% longer behind bars than they were a decade ago.

Summary of Data Findings

PROBATION/PAROLE SUPERVISION

- The number of **supervision violators in prison has grown 15%** over the last decade. They represented **22% of the total prison population** on a given day in 2014.
- Alaska's **probation and parole population grew 62%** in the last decade.
- The average **length of stay on probation or parole** prior to discharge has **increased 13%**.
- Probation and parole revocations result in significant jail stays.
 - Average time spent detained while **awaiting a revocation hearing: 33 days**
 - Average time spent detained **post-revocation: 106 days**
 - (These averages include the very short PACE revocation stays)
- Sample bail file review 62% of revocations to prison happen **within the first three months** served on probation or parole. 90% of revocations to prison happen **within the first year** of probation or parole.

Summary of Research

- More prison does not equal less crime.
- Sending an offender to prison does not make them less likely to commit another crime upon release.
- Longer sentences do not make offenders less likely to commit crimes in the future.

What Works: Evidence-based correctional practices

- Identify and focus supervision resources on high-risk offenders
- Use swift, certain, and proportionate sanctions
- Incorporate rewards and incentives
- Front-load resources in the first weeks and months after release
- Integrate treatment into supervision
- Risk-based Release Decision-Making
 - Pretrial outcomes can be improved by focusing on defendants' risk levels, not their ability to pay bail, and by limiting the use of pretrial detention to those who are medium and high risk.

SB 91 Policies

Pretrial

- Risk-Based Release Decision-Making
- Pretrial Supervision

Sentencing

- Misdemeanors
 - B Misd., A Misd., DWLS, DUI, VCOR, FTA, DC, Theft 4, Municipalities
- Felonies
 - Presumptive Ranges (A, B, & C)
 - Controlled Substances, Property Crimes

Parole

- Administrative
- Discretionary
 - Eligibility expansion, geriatric, streamlining

Reentry

- Food Stamps
- Planning
- Limited Driver's Licenses

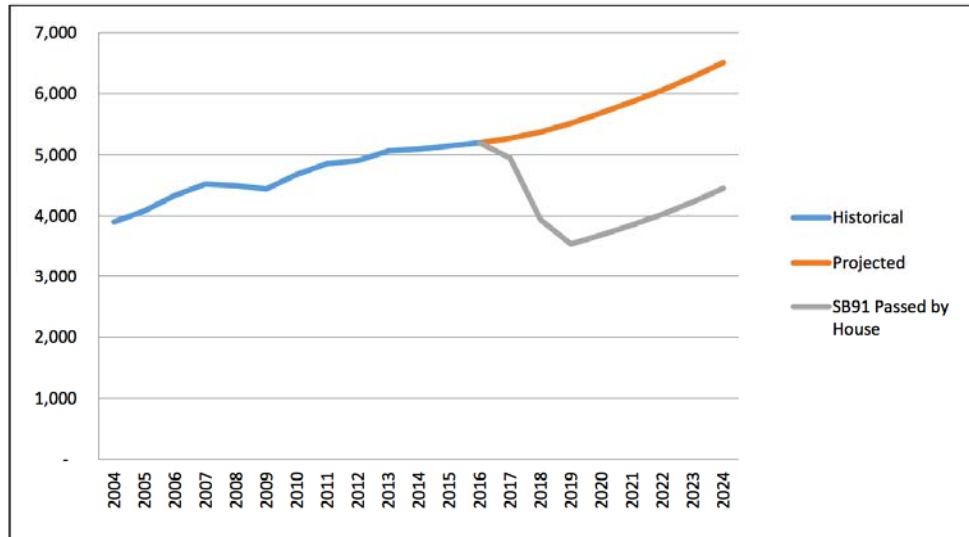
Probation/Parole Supervision

- Administrative Sanctions/Incentives
- Cap on Technical Violation Stays
- Earned Compliance Credits
- Reduced Probation Term Maximums
- Good Time on E.M.
- CRC Reform
- ASAP

Oversight

* Not a fully-comprehensive list of policies in SB 91

Alaska's Historical and Projected Prison Population



Fiscal Impact

- **Averted future costs (\$169 million)**
 - Incarcerating inmates out-of-state. Does not include averted cost of building a new prison in-state.
- **Direct net savings (\$211 million)**
 - 13% reduction in prison population over 10 years
 - Does not include potential savings through facility closures.

TOTAL = \$380 million over 10 years

Reinvestment

Pretrial Services/Supervision

\$54.2 million

Victims Services & Violence Prevention

\$11 million

DOC Treatment Services

\$11 million

Re-Entry Support Services

\$15.5 million

SB 91 reinvests a substantial portion of the savings as well as new revenue from marijuana tax receipts over the next 6 years.

Questions?

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