

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
54th Legislature – First Regular Session

HOUSE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EARNED RELEASE CREDITS FOR PRISONERS
Report of Interim Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2019
House Hearing Room 5 – 10:00 A.M.

Convened 10:04 A.M.

Recessed

Reconvened

Adjourned 12:07 P.M.

MINUTES RECEIVED.
CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

8-6-19

Members Present

Members Absent

Representative Walter Blackman, Chair
Representative Reginald Bolding, Jr.
Representative Shawwna Bolick
Representative Domingo DeGrazia
Representative Diego Espinoza
Representative Tony Rivero
Representative Bret Roberts
Representative Diego Rodriguez
Representative Ben Toma, Vice Chair

None

Agenda


Original Agenda – Attachment 1

Committee Attendance

Report – Attachment 2

Presentations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Attachments (Handouts)</u>
Ben Altender	Department of Corrections	3
Karen Hallman	Department of Corrections	
Caroline Isaacs	American Friends Service Committee	
James Hamm	Middle Ground Prison Reform	
Judge Ron Reinstein	Superior Court, now Judicial Consultant, Arizona Supreme Court	
Lauren Krisai	Justice Action Network	4



Committee Secretary
August 6, 2019

*convened - 10:04
adjourned - 12:07 pm*

REVISED - 08/05/19

REVISED - 08/05/19

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Interim agendas can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.azleg.gov/Interim-Committees>

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

INTERIM MEETING NOTICE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HOUSE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EARNED RELEASE CREDITS FOR PRISONERS

Date: Monday, August 5, 2019

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: *HHRAS - moved due to tech difficulties*

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome & Introduction
3. Charge of the Committee
4. Chair's Opening Comments
5. Presentations:
 - Charles Ryan, Director, Arizona Department of Corrections
 - Caroline Isaacs, American Friends Service Committee
 - James Hamm, Middle Ground Prison Reform
 - Judge Ron Reinstein; Superior Court, now Judicial Consultant, Arizona Supreme Court
 - Lauren Krisai, Justice Action Network
6. Public Testimony
7. Committee Discussion
8. Adjourn

Members:

Representative Walter Blackman, Chair
 Representative Reginald Bolding, Jr.
 Representative Shawna Bolick
 Representative Domingo DeGrazia
 Representative Diego Espinoza
 Representative Tony Rivero
 Representative Bret Roberts
 Representative Diego Rodriguez
 Representative Ben Toma, Vice Chair

8/4/19
8/5/19
jy

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ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE
 Fifty-fourth Legislature – First Regular Session

INTERIM COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE RECORD

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EARNED RELEASE
CREDITS FOR PRISONERS

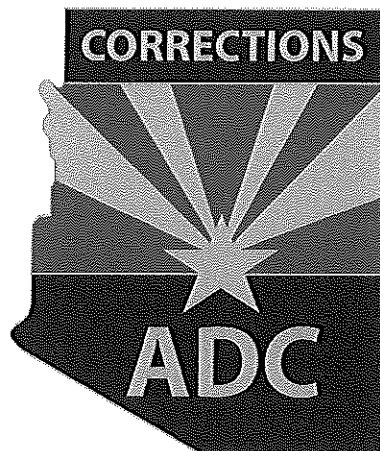
CHAIRMAN: Walter Blackman VICE-CHAIRMAN: Ben Toma

DATE	8/5/19	/19	/19	/19	/19
CONVENED	10 ⁰⁴ am				
RECESSED					
RECONVENED					
ADJOURNED	12 ⁰⁷ pm				
MEMBERS					
Representative Reginald Bolding, Jr	✓				
Representative Shawna Bolick	✓				
Representative Domingo DeGrazia	✓				
Representative Diego Espinoza	✓				
Representative Tony Rivero	✓				
Representative Bret Roberts	✓				
Representative Diego Rodriguez	✓				
Ben Toma, Vice-Chairman	✓				
Walter Blackman, Chairman	✓				

✓ Present --- Absent exc Excused

An Overview of Programs at the Arizona Department of Corrections

August 2019



Programs Offered

There are six functional program areas at ADC:

- Inmate Education
- Counseling and Treatment Services
- Religious Services
- Self-Improvement (Psycho-educational)
- Planned Pro-social Activities
- Work Opportunities

Inmate Education

This program area is under the purview of Support Services Division- Inmate Education. Academic educational programming is available at all complexes. Instruction is conducted by certified teachers. There are six main types of educational programming:

Program: Mandatory Literacy

Delivered By: Certified academic teachers

Description: The goal of these classes is for inmates to pass the minimum eighth grade literacy standard. Inmates stay in the classes until this objective is met or the inmate is given an exemption. These services are required by ARS 31-240, 31-229, 31-229.01 and 31-22.02.

Program: Special Education (SPED)

Delivered By: Certified special education teachers

Description: The purpose of special education is to ensure that high school students under the age of 22 with educational disabilities are identified and an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed to help them access the general education curriculum. The specially designed instruction and related services are provided in accordance to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Idea) and ARS 15-1372.

Program: General Educational Development (GED)

Delivered By: Certified academic teachers

Description: The goal of these classes is for inmates, who do not have a high-school diploma or GED, to study for, take and pass the GED test. GED testing is provided by state certified ADC Examiners at all complexes.

Program: High School Diploma

Delivered By: Certified academic teachers

Description: Inmates are allowed to participate in high school programming in order to complete all core curriculum coursework aligned to the Department of Education standards. Once 22 or more credits have been earned, an inmate will be awarded a high school diploma.

Program: Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Delivered By: Contracts with community colleges

Description: CTE classes are a combination of classroom instruction and hands on skill learning and application. Classes include a wide variety of focuses, including welding, construction trades and automotive repair. CTS courses typically range from 3-8 months in duration with 4-6 months being the average.

Program: Distance Learning

Delivered By: Any accredited and approved college

Description: These are college classes are delivered via distance learning. The goal of these classes is for inmates to earn academic credit towards obtaining a degree. Inmates must pay for all expenses associated with these classes.

ADC Counseling and Treatment Services

This program area is under the purview of Support Services Division- Counseling and Treatment Services. Counseling and Treatment programs are available on units at six complexes. The services are conducted by licensed counselors and there are three main types of treatment programming:

Program: Addiction Treatment Services (ATS)

Delivered By: Licensed substance abuse counselors

Description: The goal of these services is for inmates to address their addiction issues and learn to live drug free, pro-social lifestyles. All ATS groups are cognitive-behavioral in nature and there are some specialty groups to address topics such as co-occurring disorders, aftercare and social skills development. Groups range from six months (Moderate TX and Co-occurring TX) to twelve months (Intensive TX).

Program: Sex Offender Education and Treatment Program (SOETP)

Delivered By: Licensed counselors

Description: The goal of these services is for inmates to address their sexual offense history and learn to live pro-social lifestyles. All SOETP groups are cognitive-behavioral in nature. Pre-treatment lasts six months and primary treatment lasts 12 months.

Program: Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Treatment

Delivered By: Contract with SAGE Counseling

Description: This program is offered per ARS31-255 to meet the baseline thirty-six hours of DUI education and treatment required for offenders convicted under the DUI statutes. Inmates, who complete the initial treatment portion, may continue on for up to twelve months if they have time left to serve and assessment indicates a need. Delivery of this type of treatment requires a specific type of program certification through the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Contract Beds - Treatment Services

Program: Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Treatment

Delivered By: Program staff as part of contract with ADC

Description: This program is offered per ARS 31-255 to meet the baseline thirty-six hours of DUI education and treatment required for offenders convicted under the DUI statutes.

Inmates who complete the initial treatment portion, continue on for up to six months if they have time left to serve and assessment indicates a need. Delivery of this type of treatment requires a specific type of program certification through the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Program: Addiction Treatment

Delivered By: Program staff as part of contract with ADC

Description: The goal of these services is for inmates to address their addiction issues and learn to live drug free, pro-social lifestyles. Groups range from six months (Moderate TX) to twelve months (Intensive TX).

Program: Sex Offender Education and Treatment Program (SOETP)

Delivered By: Program staff as part of contract with ADC

Description: The goal of these services is for inmates to address their sexual offense history and learn to live pro-social lifestyles. All SOETP groups are cognitive-behavioral in nature. Groups range from six months (Pre-TX) to two years (TX), but the majority of the primary treatment groups are a year long.

Religious Services

This program area is under the purview of Support Services Division- Religious Services. Religious services are available at all complexes. The programming is delivered per ARS 31-201.01/ 31-206; ARS 41-1493.01; Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000.

Program: Various Faith-Based Services and Studies

Delivered By: Chaplains and Volunteers

Description: Faith-based services and studies are delivered at all locations. The types of services are dependent on inmate need and interest.

Program: Mentorship Services

Delivered By: Volunteer Organizations

Description: These mentorship programs begin with in prison classes/meetings that teach inmates how to lead a pro-social, moral life. Upon release an assigned mentor may continue to work with the offender in the community.

ADC Self Improvement Psycho-educational Classes

This program area is under the purview of Operations Division-Prison Complexes and Offender Services. The programs are delivered by Correctional Officer IIIs on the units. The goal is to teach pro-social life skills that will improve the inmates' behavior in prison and increase their chance of success upon release. Note: Merging Two Worlds Re-Entry and Changing Offender Behavior- Cognitive Restructuring are the two (2) programs required for all inmates. The other programs are offered on a supplemental basis to maximize inmate engagement in pro-social activities.

Program: Changing Offender Behavior

Delivered By: COIIIs

Description: Changing Offender Behavior is a twenty session cognitive restructuring program. It teaches inmates how to examine and challenge their thought patterns and beliefs that lead them to act in anti-social ways. The class is a core class and is required for inmates via the Priority Ranking Report.

Program: Merging Two Worlds-Re-entry

Delivered By: COIIs

Description: Merging Two Worlds is a sixteen session pre-release preparation course that addresses variety of topics including; accessing community services, interviewing skills, learning styles, choosing an appropriate release placement and resiliency skills. The class is a core class and is required for inmates via the Priority Ranking Report.

Program: Max and Close Management

Delivered By: COIIs

Description: This is a behavioral change Step program designed to teach and incentivize inmates to make better choices. Program materials include Courage to Change workbooks and Hazelden workbooks. Each course lasts 8-10 sessions and course workbook topics include: Self- Control, Responsible Thinking, Social values, Core Skills Substance Abuse, Feelings, and Socialization.

Program: Cultural Diversity

Delivered By: COIIs

Description: Cultural Diversity is a four session course designed to reduce the potential for conflict in the prison environment by enabling participants to understand and respect cultural diversity. This course is an additional class to be offered by the units when there are the staff resources available. Inmate placement in the course is determined via the Priority Ranking Report.

Program: Conflict Resolution

Delivered By: COIIs

Description: Conflict Resolution is a four session course designed to teach inmates the situational aspects of anger and strategies for self-regulation. This course is an additional class to be offered by the units when there are the staff resources available. Inmate placement in the course is determined via the Priority Ranking Report.

Program: Domestic Violence

Delivered By: COIIs

Description: Domestic Violence is a twelve session course designed to help inmates develop less violent and healthier personal and family relationships. This course is an additional class to be offered by the units when there are the staff resources available. Inmate placement in the course is determined via the Priority Ranking Report.

Program: Impact on Crime Victims (ICVC)

Delivered By: COIIs and Volunteers

Description: Impact on Crime Victims is a ten session course designed to teach inmates the impact that their crimes have had on their victims. It is a combination of educational classes conducted by the COIIs and presentations from actual crime victims. This course is an

additional class to be offered by the units when there are the staff resources available. Inmate placement in the course is determined via the Priority Ranking Report.

Money Management

Delivered By: COIIIs

Description: Money Management is a two session course. Session one teaches money management skills to help the inmate begin to budget while incarcerated and set financial goals for their release. Session two introduces information on credit and reviews and reinforces the money management skills taught in the first class. This is an additional class to be offered by units when there are staff resources available.

Program: Parenting

Delivered By: COIIIs

Description: These classes vary in length but all are designed to teach basic parenting skills to inmates and to assist in fostering stronger and healthier parent/child bonds. This course is an additional class to be offered by the units when there are the staff resources available.

Planned Pro-social Activities

This program area is under the purview of Operations Division-Prison Complexes. These planned activities leverage local talent and resources to increase programming opportunities. The goal is to keep inmates active and engaged in pro-social activities while learning information/skills to increase their chance of success upon release.

Delivered By: Correctional Officer IIIs, Volunteers, Community Agency Grant Staff, Student Interns, and Inmate Peers

Location (s) Offered: All prisons

Description: These courses vary in length and nature but all are productive and pro-social in nature. Some have a formal curriculum, while others do not. They may or may not have an evidential basis. These programs are often idiosyncratic to a particular unit and are used to enhance positive change in inmates while keeping them productively engaged. These types of programs include classes/topics such as: 12 Step programs, Inside-Out, life skills, job search skills, relaxation skills, courses delivered via closed circuit television, and how to most beneficially utilize the time spent at ADC.

Work Opportunities

Program: Work Incentive Pay Plan

Description: The jobs offered through WIPP employ inmates in a variety of jobs within the prison system. These jobs include such functions as kitchen helper, shoe shiner, classroom aide, porter, electrician, painter, plumber, etc. The goal of these jobs is to teach inmates employability skills while saving taxpayers money.

Intergovernmental Agreements

Description: The jobs offered through IGAs employ inmates in a variety of jobs in the community. ADC has 131 IGA agreements with a variety of entities including ADOA, ADOT

State Land and DEMA. The goal of these jobs is to teach inmates employability skills while saving taxpayers money.

Arizona Correctional Industries

Description: Arizona Correctional Industries private sector partners and ACI owned and operated businesses. The goal of these jobs is to teach inmates employability skills while saving taxpayers money.

Reentry and Post Release Programs

Second Chance Centers

Description: Second Chance Centers are focused on preparing inmates for employment upon release during the last sixty (60) days prior to an inmate's release from prison. The Department of Economic Security (DES) has full-time staff at the Second Chance Centers to assist in this preparation with creating resumes, completing applications and interview skills. Other state and community agencies will also assist as needed in order to make every effort for inmates to be successful. Some private companies have also joined the Centers to teach inmates other skills such as plumbing, electrical and framing. Inmates are expected to fully engage and participate in this opportunity.

Maricopa Reentry Center (MRC)

Description: The Maricopa Reentry Center is a facility that offers services to offenders that are currently on community supervision. The MRC is currently offering two programs, the Intensive Treatment with Housing (ITH) and the Sanction program. The ITH program This is a cognitive based, substance abuse treatment program. Offenders in this program work with licensed counselors and paraprofessionals to address their substance abuse problems and successfully reintegrate back into society. Curriculum for this program includes materials from Hazelton, the Change Companies, and The University of Cincinnati. Emphasis is placed on increasing coping skills, eliminating dysfunctional decision making, learning pro-social ways to spend "free" time, addressing thinking errors, and relapse prevention. The Sanctions program is utilized as an intervention technique with offenders who are violating the technical terms of their supervision status but who are not committing new crimes or presenting a danger to the public. These offenders are sent to MRC for brief stays (typically 2-3 days) during which they are restricted to the facility. While they are in the sanctions program, they attend classes and complete assignments designed to help them rethink their decision making processes.

Pima Reentry Center (PRC)

Description: The Pima Reentry Center is a facility that offers services to offenders that are currently on community supervision. The PRC is currently offering three programs, the Intensive Treatment with Housing (ITH), the Sanction program, and the Without Placement

Program (WOP). The ITH program -This is a cognitive based, substance abuse treatment program. Offenders in this program work with licensed counselors and paraprofessionals to address their substance abuse problems and successfully reintegrate back into society. Curriculum for this program includes materials from Hazelton, the Change Companies, and The University of Cincinnati. Emphasis is placed on increasing coping skills, eliminating dysfunctional decision making, learning pro-social ways to spend "free" time, addressing thinking errors, and relapse prevention. The Sanctions program is utilized as an intervention technique with offenders who are violating the technical terms of their supervision status but who are not committing new crimes or presenting a danger to the public. These offenders are sent to PRC for brief stays (typically 2-3 days) during which they are restricted to the facility. While they are in the sanctions program, they attend classes and complete assignments designed to help them rethink their decision making processes. The Without Placement Program (WOP) is a program that offers housing and services to offenders who have no viable residential placement and are in need of temporary emergency housing. WOP residents participate in employment classes, peer programs, and pro-social activities offered at the center. Offenders actively seek and are assisted in their search for employment while they locate viable residential placement. PRC offers offenders access to outside services with community agencies, peer counseling, employment services, and educational classes on site to include materials from Courage to Change, Hazelton Living Skills Series, and the A+ computer program. Offenders in the WOP program have the freedom to build a successful life with structured assistance to guide them on the journey.

Community Accountability Program (CAP)

This post-release program is funded by the State Spirit Tax and delivered through contracted services. The CAP was formerly a legislative program (A.R.S. § 41-1609.6) which sunsetted (expired legislation in 2013). Upon legislative expiration, ADC adopted the CAP as an enhanced Community Supervision offender case management intervention strategy. The contracted vendor provides cognitive behavioral-based counseling with enhanced accountability options through electronic monitoring services (Global Positioning System, Transdermal Alcohol Detection). This program is utilized as a proactive offender case management intervention strategy to assist offenders whose criminogenic factors/behaviors demonstrate a need for cognitive restructuring/treatment and oversight. The current statewide contract is held by Correctional Healthcare Solutions (CHS).

Residential Community Behavior Modification Program (A.R.S. § 42-3106)

While the actual program components are not mandated, the funds are supplied through the legislative spirit tax fund (A.R.S. 42-3106). This is a residential treatment program for Community Supervision offenders who are demonstrating difficulty reintegrating into the community appropriately. This program serves high risk/high need offenders that are relapsing into substance abuse and/or demonstrate additional high needs, to include high need General Mental Health (GMH) and Serious Mental Illness (SMI). The program includes two program tracks:

1. Sanction- swift, brief adult "time out"; which includes residency with brief cognitive assignment to address poor decision making.
2. Residential treatment- includes residential substance abuse treatment for up to 90 days.

Contracted programs are available in Maricopa and Pima Counties.

The current contracts are held by:

Maricopa County- Vivre Recovery Housing/partnered with Building Blocks Counseling

Pima County- Behavioral Systems Southwest

Transition Program for Non-Violent Offenders (A.R.S. § 31-281)

This Transition Program is funded by a percentage of the State Spirit Tax (a tax on all alcoholic beverages) and mandatory inmate wages contributions. The program is delivered through contracted services. Services include needs assessment, substance abuse counseling, life skills classes, cognitive restructuring and domestic violence classes. Offenders participate in programs that target their criminogenic need(s). Progress notes are web based and Community Corrections Officers can access them and follow their offender's progress. Eligibility and program acceptance occurs during inmate status (ADC incarceration) with the legislative intent of releasing inmates early for the purpose of community-based substance abuse treatment- recidivism reduction and tax payer savings.

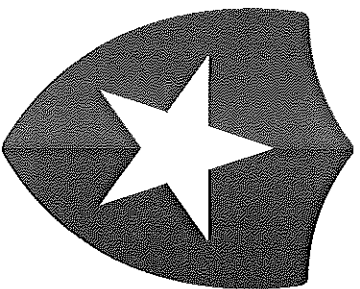
Earned Time Credits: A National Perspective

Lauren Krisai
Justice Action Network

Overview

- Introduction to JAN
- Overview/History: Credits and Length of Stay
- National Comparison of Earned Credits
- State Examples: Good Time and Earned Time Laws
- Next Steps and Opportunities for Reform

Who We Are



JUSTICE
ACTION NETWORK

Overview: Good Time vs. Earned Time Credits

- Definition of “good time” credits
- Definition of “earned time” credits
 - Arizona
- Goal of good time & earned time credits
 - Maintain safe conditions for inmates and staff
 - Reduce overcrowding
- Goal of earned time credits
 - Incentivize inmates to participate in programming
 - Reduce recidivism, crime

History: Truth-in-Sentencing

- 1970's: indeterminate sentencing
- 1980's: determinate sentencing, sentencing guidelines, mandatory minimums
- Early 1990's: severe overcrowding; good-time sentencing reductions and earned-time opportunities
- 1994: Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act: authorized federal funding for additional state prisons and jails contingent on the adoption of "truth-in-sentencing" policies requiring violent offenders serve 85% of their sentences
 - Arizona enacted truth-in-sentencing in 1993
- 1990's: Some states begin eliminating early release by discretion of a parole board for all offenders
- 2000-2010's: States begin rolling back truth-in-sentencing requirements, eliminating mandatory minimums for certain crimes

History: Truth-in-Sentencing

- In 1999:
 - 41 states and the District of Columbia had some form of truth-in-sentencing laws
 - 27 States and the District of Columbia required violent offenders serve 85% of their sentences

Average Sentence vs. Time Served in State Prisons: Violent Offenders

- 1996:
 - Average sentence: 7 years, 1 month
 - Average time served: 3 years, 9 months (53%)
- 2016:
 - Average sentence: 10 years, 2 months
 - Average time served: 5 years, 6 months (54%)
- Average sentence length increased by 3 years, 1 month (43.5%)
- Average time served increased by 1 year, 9 months (47.7%)

Average Sentence vs. Time Served in State Prisons: Drug Offenders

- 1996:
 - Average sentence: 4 years, 9 months
 - Average time served: 2 years, 8 months (53%)
- 2016:
 - Average sentence: 5 years, 3 months
 - Average time served: ~2 years, 1.6 months (40.6%)
- Average sentence length increased by 6 months (10.5%)
- Average time served decreased by 6.4 months (20.1%)

Average Sentence vs. Time Served in State Prisons: Property Offenders

- 1996:
 - Average sentence: 4 years, 6 months
 - Average time served: 2 years, 6 months (55.6%)
- 2016:
 - Average sentence: 4 years, 9 months
 - Average time served: ~2 years (42.4%)
- Average sentence length increased by 3 months (5.6%)
- Average time served decreased by 6 months (20%)

Earned Credits in Arizona: 1993

Offender Type	Credit Eligibility	Time Served
First time offender not sentenced to life or convicted of a dangerous offense	1 day of credit for every 2 days served	66.67% time served
Category 2 repetitive offender, Offender convicted of a first-time dangerous offense (Class 4, 5, 6)	1 day of credit for every 2 days served	66.67% time served
Multiple repetitive offender, Offender with prior and current dangerous offenses; Serious, violent, or aggravated offenders	1 day of credit for every 3 days served	75% time served

Earned Credits in Arizona: 1994-Present

Offender Type	Credit Eligibility	Time Served
All offenders eligible to earn release credits	1 day of credit for every 6 days served	85% time served

National Comparison of Earned Credits

- States that require nonviolent offenders serve 85% of their sentences in prison:
 - Arizona
 - Florida
 - Virginia

National Comparison of Earned Credits

- At least 36 states have laws on the books that allow inmates to earn credits toward an earlier release for successful completion of some type of programming.
- These earned time credits are distinguished from, and can be offered in addition to, “good time” credits
- Some examples

State Examples: Oklahoma

- Good time: 22, 33, 44, 45, or 60 days per month for certain behavior/program participation
- Earned time: Lump sum
 - 10 – 30 days for educational accomplishments on top of good time; 90 days for completion of GED on top of good time; 200 days for a bachelor's degree; 100 credits for an associate's degree.
 - 80 days for vocational certificate on top of good time.
 - 70 days for completion of a minimum 4 month alcohol/chemical abuse treatment program on top of good time.

State Examples: Tennessee

- Good time: 8 days per month
- Earn up to 16 days per month for participating in an educational, vocational, or work program in addition to good time credits
- Earned time: 60 days lump sum for:
 - Completion of GED, high school diploma, 2 or 4- year college degree or applied sciences program
 - Completion of a vocational educational diploma

State Examples: Arkansas

- Good time: 30 days per month
- Earned time: 90 day lump sum
 - Completion of educational, vocational and substance abuse programs.

State Examples: South Carolina

- Good time:
 - Parole eligible: 20 days per month
 - Not parole eligible: 3 days per month
- Earned time: 1 day earned for every 2 days
- Results:
 - Between 2010-2015: rate at which inmates returned to prison within three years declined by 3%, from 27.5% to 24.5%.

**State Examples:
Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Vermont,
Colorado, Georgia**

- Certain inmates can earn day-for day credit for participation in certain programs.

State Examples: Kansas

- Good time: 20% for drug offenders; 15% for others
- 2007: Established earned time
 - Allows inmates (except for sexually violent) to earn 60-day lump sum, capped at 120 days
- Results:
 - When enacted, the bill was forecasted to save the state \$3.6 million annually
 - Between 2007-2017: 8.8% decrease in the violent crime rate, and a 23.9% reduction in the property crime rate

Recent Reforms: Mississippi

- 2008: removed 180-day cap on earned time for completing educational or other instructional programs.
- 2013: reduced time-served requirement for violent offenders from 85% to 50%, and to 25% for nonviolent offenders.
- Results:
 - 20.5% reduction in its prison population since 2008
 - Reductions in crime

National Research

- National Council on Crime and Delinquency: literature review of studies on state “accelerated release policies”
- No significant increase in rates of recidivism for offenders who had length of incarceration reduced

Why Expand Good Time/Earned Release Credit Opportunities?

- Reduces recidivism
- Addresses root causes of crime
- Makes communities safer
- Reduces corrections costs
- Helps prioritize prison space for those who pose a threat
- Boosts morale in prisons
- Arizona has previously done it

Potential Opportunities for Reform

- Reduce truth-in-sentencing cap for nonviolent offenders
- Create additional earned time credit opportunities that are contingent on participation in programming
- Give a lump sum of credits for individuals who obtain certain degrees or certificates
- Increase programming opportunities for inmates

Thank you!

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