



SENTENCING REFORM and CORRECTIONS Act

Cosponsored by U.S. Senator John Cornyn

- **Provides for Prison Reform based on the Cornyn-Whitehouse CORRECTIONS Act:**
The bill requires the Department of Justice to conduct risk assessments to classify all federal inmates and to use the results to assign inmates to appropriate recidivism reduction programs, including work and education programs, drug rehabilitation, job training, and faith-based programs. Eligible prisoners who successfully complete these programs can earn early release and may spend the final portion (up to 25 percent) of their remaining sentence in home confinement or a halfway house.
- **Reforms and Targets Enhanced Mandatory Minimums for Prior Drug Felons:**
The bill reduces the enhanced penalties that apply to certain non-violent drug offenders and eliminates the three-strike mandatory life provision, but it allows those enhanced penalties to be aggressively applied to offenders with prior convictions for violent crimes.
- **Broadens the Existing Safety Valve and Creates a Second Safety Valve:**
The bill expands the existing safety valve to cover more offenders with low-level, non-violent criminal histories. The safety valve allows certain defendants who cooperate with law enforcement to be sentenced below the mandatory minimum for a non-violent drug crime. The bill also creates a second safety valve that gives judges discretion to sentence certain low-level offenders below the 10-year federal mandatory minimum for a drug offense. But defendants who play an enhanced role in drug trafficking, as well as those convicted of serious violent and serious drug felonies cannot benefit from these reforms.
- **Clarifies Congressional Intent Related to the “Stacking” of Certain Firearms Possession Offenses:**
Current law has been interpreted to allow certain first-time unlawful firearms possessors to be subject to a 25-year repeat-offender mandatory minimum—even though they have no prior history of violence or illegal firearm possession. This legislation would make clear that first-time offenders who unlawfully possess a firearm should be subject to a 5-year mandatory minimum, rather than a 25-year mandatory minimum. This clarification does not apply to offenders who illegally use, brandish, discharge, or threaten to use a firearm. It only applies to those convicted of simple unlawful possession of a firearm.
- **Creates New Mandatory Minimums for Interstate Domestic Violence and Certain Export Control Violations:**
The bill adds new mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes involving interstate domestic violence and creates a new mandatory minimum for providing weapons and other defense materials to prohibited countries and terrorists.
- **Applies the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 Retroactively**
- **Limits Solitary Confinement for Juveniles in Federal Custody and Improves the Accuracy of Federal Criminal Records**
- **Provides for a Report and Inventory of All Federal Criminal Offenses**