



BETTER JUSTICE FOR FLORIDA

Creating a Criminal Justice Reform Task Force

Background

Decades of policies have relied on incarceration as the only solution to issues of criminal justice have left Florida with an extraordinarily harsh system that drives far too many people into jails and prisons to the detriment of public safety. While harsher sentencing was once considered being “tough on crime” these costly policies have proven ineffective at best, and counterproductive at worst. For example:

- Florida spends over \$2.4 billion a year to incarcerate approximately 100,000 people.
- More children are sent to adult court and prison in Florida than any other state.
- Florida’s population roughly tripled between 1970 and 2014, but its prison population increased by more than 1,000%.
- Florida’s sentence lengths increased 166% from 1990 to 2009 - more than any other state.
- Since 2007, 33 states have implemented comprehensive criminal justice reforms. Florida is not one of them.

Proposed Legislation

HB 387 / SB 458: Florida Criminal Justice Reform Task Force

Filed by Rep. Peters & Sen. Brandes

Summary

These bills would create a task force to study, evaluate, analyze, and undertake a comprehensive review of the state’s adult criminal justice system, using a data-driven approach, to develop sentencing and corrections policy recommendations. The task force shall submit a report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for proposed legislation to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by the date of convening of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature. The 28 member task force would consist of:

- Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate
- Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Two circuit judges, one of whom must have presided over a mental health court or drug court, appointed by the chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges of Florida.
- Two county court judges, appointed by the chair of the Conference of County Court Judges of Florida.
- A justice of the Supreme Court or judge of a district court of appeal, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- A representative of the Florida State University Project on Accountable Justice, appointed by the chair of the organization’s executive board.
- A representative from a victim’s advocacy group, appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees recommended by the chairs of the committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives with jurisdiction over criminal justice matters.
- Two county commissioners, appointed by the Florida Association of Counties.
- A formerly incarcerated individual who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to rehabilitation and community improvement, appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees jointly recommended by the chairs of the committees in the Senate and House of Representatives with jurisdiction over criminal justice matters.

FLORIDA CAMPAIGN FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- Two representatives of the faith community, either clergy or employees of faith-based policy organizations, appointed by the Governor from a list of three nominees jointly recommended by the chairs of the committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives with jurisdiction over criminal justice matters.
- The chairs of the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives with jurisdiction over criminal justice matters, or their designees.
- Two designees of the Executive Office of the Governor with demonstrated knowledge in the criminal justice field.
- The Attorney General or his or her designee.
- The Secretary of Corrections or his or her designee.
- The Secretary of Juvenile Justice or his or her designee.
- The president of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association or his or her designee.
- The president of the Florida Public Defender Association or his or her designee.
- The president of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers or his or her designee.
- The president of the Florida Sheriffs Association or his or her designee.
- The president of the Florida Police Chiefs Association or his or her designee.

Connect with the Campaign

Additional information and resources are available at www.BetterJusticeFL.com

General requests can be made at contact@betterjusticefl.com

Media requests can be made at media@betterjusticefl.com