

KEY CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY REFORMS AND LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2009

STATE	REFORM
Arkansas	Created a task force to study the state's criminal justice system.
California	Established a funding mechanism to reward counties that succeed in reducing the rate of adult probationers sent to prison; funding allocation based on costs avoided by the state through reduced numbers of revocations to prison.
Florida	Revised "zero tolerance" policies.
Illinois	Created a Sentencing Policy Advisory Council to examine sentencing policies and practices; Launched Adult Redeploy Illinois which prioritizes state funding to expand local supervision of individuals who would otherwise be incarcerated in state prisons; provides monetary incentives to help local jurisdictions expand community-based treatment.
Iowa	Eliminated the law restricting persons convicted of sex offenses from living within 2,000 feet of a school or day care center.
Kentucky	Expanded in-prison treatment options for persons convicted of certain felony drug offenses; expanded parole eligibility for persons convicted of low-level felony offenses.
Louisiana	Amended penalties for persons serving life sentences for heroin offenses; enhanced "good time" policies for individuals in local jails and state prisons.
Maine	Modified penalties for certain marijuana possession offenses and eliminated the possibility of jail time.
Maryland	Restricted the death penalty to cases where the defendant's conviction is based on: DNA evidence, videotaped or voluntary confession, or video recording. Strengthened employment options for persons with certain felony offenses.
Minnesota	Authorized sentencing without regard to mandatory minimum provisions for certain drug offenses. Enacted statewide "Ban the Box" measure that only permits public employers to ask job applicants about their criminal record when selected for an interview. Required feasibility study of collecting data at different decision points in the criminal justice system.
Mississippi	Expanded credit for early release programs for participation in correctional education programs.
Nebraska	Established the Sentencing and Recidivism Task Force to examine the relationship between rehabilitative programming and the rate of recidivism.
Nevada	Amended sentencing provisions for controlled substance offenses; modified adult certification policies for juveniles; revised parole eligibility for juveniles.
New Mexico	Repealed the death penalty.
New York	Reformed Rockefeller Drug Laws by eliminating mandatory minimums for the first and second offense for certain drug charges; authorized the resentencing of about 1,500 persons sentenced under the previous law.
North Carolina	Permitted persons sentenced to death to challenge their death sentence by arguing there is systemic racial bias in the way that capital punishment is applied.
Rhode Island	Eliminated mandatory minimums for certain drug possession offenses.
Texas	Enhanced the authority of the correctional agency to administer good time policy; eliminated juvenile life without parole.
Washington	Restored voting rights for citizens who exit the criminal justice system but still have outstanding financial obligations. Modified early release policies as a result of medical incapacitation.