



Bipartisan Support for Justice Reinvestment Legislation

Wide majorities in most states approved sentencing and corrections reforms

Since 2007, 34 states have adopted legislation, developed through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, to improve their sentencing and corrections policies. These laws, listed below, passed with strong bipartisan support, including many unanimous votes, demonstrating that elected officials across the nation back broad research-based changes that control prison growth, hold offenders accountable, and protect public safety. The reforms prioritize the use of prison for serious and violent offenses while expanding alternatives to imprisonment for those who can be supervised more effectively and at less expense in the community. Below is a state-by-state breakdown of legislative support for these measures over the past decade. Some states have undertaken reforms in multiple years and, as a result, have more than one listing.

The Justice Reinvestment Initiative is a public-private partnership that provides intensive technical assistance to states and includes the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, the Crime and Justice Institute, and other organizations. Other states have adopted criminal justice reforms through other means and are not included here.

State	Vote year	Bill number	Governor (party)	Senate vote	House vote		
Arkansas	2017	S.B. 136	Asa Hutchinson (R)	27-4	86-1		
	2011	S. 750	Mike Beebe (D)	Unanimous (35-0)	79-14		
Georgia	2017	S.B. 174	Nathan Deal (R)	Unanimous (50-0)	Unanimous (156-0)		
	2012	H.B. 1176	Nathan Deal (R)	Unanimous (51-0)	Unanimous (162-0)		
Louisiana	2017	S.B. 139	John Bel Edwards (D)	20-13	75-30		
		S.B. 220		26-9	88-17		
		S.B. 221		23-11	83-17		
		H.B. 249		22-9	65-27		
		H.B. 489		Unanimous (29-0)	Unanimous (97-0)		
		S.B. 16		25-11	67-35		
		H.B. 116		27-2	Unanimous (99-0)		
		H.B. 519		27-1	89-6		
		H.B. 680		26-11	59-26		
		H.B. 681		22-14	68-26		
		2011		H.B. 415	Bobby Jindal (R)	Unanimous (37-0)	Unanimous (90-0)
				S.B. 202		Unanimous (35-0)	Unanimous (97-0)
		H.B. 416		37-2	Unanimous (93-0)		
	H.B. 106		Unanimous (36-0)	Unanimous (85-0)			
	H.B. 414		Unanimous (36-0)	84-2			

State	Vote year	Bill number	Governor (party)	Senate vote	House vote
Montana	2017	S.B. 59	Steve Bullock (D)	Unanimous (46-0)	90-10
		S.B. 60		43-5	Unanimous (100-0)
		S.B. 62		Unanimous (48-0)	Unanimous (97-0)
		S.B. 63		Unanimous (50-0)	95-5
		S.B. 64		47-3	97-3
		S.B. 65		36-14	83-16
		S.B. 67		Unanimous (49-0)	Unanimous (98-0)
		S.J. 3		Unanimous (49-0)	76-24
		H.B. 133		37-12	90-10
North Dakota	2017	S.B. 2015	Doug Burgum (R)	Unanimous (46-0)	85-7
		H.B. 1041		Unanimous (42-0)	88-2
Rhode Island	2017	H.B. 5063A	Gina M. Raimondo (D)	Unanimous (33-0)	Unanimous (65-0)
		H.B. 5117A		Unanimous (31-0)	Unanimous (69-0)
		H.B. 5128A		29-3	Unanimous (69-0)
		H.B. 5064A		Unanimous (32-0)	Unanimous (69-0)
		H.B. 5115A		Unanimous (33-0)	Unanimous (68-0)
	2008	H.B. 7204	Donald Carcieri (R)	25-11	60-12
Alaska	2016	S.B. 91	Bill Walker (I)	16-2	28-11
Maryland	2016	S.B. 1005	Larry Hogan (R)	Unanimous (46-0)	123-18
Nebraska	2015	L.B. 605	Pete Ricketts (R)	Unanimous (45-0)*	
Alabama	2015	S.B. 67	Robert J. Bentley (R)	Unanimous (27-0)	100-5
	2011	S.B. 47	Robert J. Bentley (R)	28-1	Unanimous (96-0)
		S.B. 267		27-1	82-17
Utah	2015	H.B. 348	Gary Herbert (R)	Unanimous (23-0)	67-2
Idaho	2014	S. 1357	C.L. "Butch" Otter (R)	Unanimous (35-0)	Unanimous (66-0)
Mississippi	2014	H.B. 585	Phil Bryant (R)	Unanimous (50-0)	105-13 (3 voting present)
Oregon	2013	H.B. 3194	John Kitzhaber (D)	19-11	40-18
South Dakota	2013	S. 70	Dennis Daugaard (R)	31-2	63-7
West Virginia	2013	S.B. 371	Earl Ray Tomblin (D)	Unanimous (34-0)	81-17
Kansas	2013	H.B. 2170	Sam Brownback (R)	35-4	77-44
	2007	S. 14	Kathleen Sebelius (D)	Unanimous (30-0)	95-30
Missouri	2012	H.B. 1525	Jay Nixon (D)	28-2	Unanimous (151-0)
Delaware	2012	S.B. 226	Jack Markell (D)	17-3	36-3
Pennsylvania	2012	H.B. 135	Tom Corbett (R)	Unanimous (49-0)	Unanimous (195-0)
		S. 100		Unanimous (49-0)	Unanimous (198-0)
	2008	H.B. 4	Ed Rendell (D)	48-2	195-3
		H.B. 5		Unanimous (50-0)	Unanimous (199-0)
		H.B. 6		49-1	Unanimous (199-0)

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State	Vote year	Bill number	Governor (party)	Senate vote	House vote
		H.B. 7		Unanimous (50-0)	196-3
Hawaii	2012	S. 2776	Neil Abercrombie (D)	Unanimous (25-0)	40-9
		H.B. 2515		Unanimous (25-0)	49-2
Oklahoma	2012	H.B. 3052	Mary Fallin (R)	39-5	71-18
Kentucky	2011	H.B. 463	Steve Beshear (D)	Unanimous (38-0)	96-1
North Carolina	2011	H.B. 642	Beverly Perdue (D)	Unanimous (50-0)	115-1
Ohio	2011	H.B. 86	John Kasich (R)	30-3	87-9
South Carolina	2010	S. 1154	Mark Sanford (R)	Unanimous (46-0)	97-4
New Hampshire	2010	S. 500	John Lynch (D)	Voice vote	256-57
Wisconsin	2009	A.B. 75	Jim Doyle (D)	17-15	51-46
Illinois	2009	S.B. 1289	Patrick Quinn (D)	Unanimous (58-0)	98-18
Arizona	2008	S. 1476	Janet Napolitano (D)	20-4	35-18
Connecticut	2008	S.B. 1700	M. Jodi Rell (R)	Unanimous (36-0)	126-12
Vermont	2008	H.B. 859	Jim Douglas (R)	Unanimous (29-0)	Voice vote
Nevada	2007	A.B. 510	Jim Gibbons (R)	16-5	35-4
Texas	2007	H.B. 1	Rick Perry (R)	25-5	114-35
		S. 166		Voice vote	143-1

*Nebraska has a unicameral legislature.

Note: Michigan implemented criminal justice reforms in 2010 through an administrative process (without new legislation) and is not included here. This fact sheet was updated on May 1, 2018, to reflect 2017 data.

Sources: State legislative tracking websites

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