



Louisiana Family Forum (LFF) Criminal Justice Reform 2017

LFF is pleased to announce that over a year of research and deliberation has resulted in the passage of a comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform package. In keeping with LFF's priorities, these laws promote rehabilitation and reentry opportunities for nonviolent offenders. This package provides substantial savings to Louisiana taxpayers while assisting victims' and investing in recidivism reduction.

The successful passage of these ten Acts below is a remarkable accomplishment. LFF was honored to work alongside the District Attorneys, Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole, and many other stakeholders to get meaningful laws passed.

LFF Supported Legislation:

ACT 281 - Sentencing Revisions - Alario (R-Westwego) **Goal: Focus Prison Space on Those Convicted of Violent Crimes**

- Reduces penalties for some drug and theft offenses;
- Raises the felony theft threshold from \$750 to \$1,000;
- Eliminates mandatory minimums and reduces maximum sentences for several nonviolent offenses;
- Creates a task force to study the creation of a new felony classification system.

ACT 282 - Habitual Offender Penalties - Alario (R-Westwego) **Goal: Focus Prison Space on Those Convicted of Violent Crimes**

- Reduces habitual offender penalties (considered far out of step with other states) by lowering mandatory minimum sentences for second or third felony convictions and eliminating life sentences for fourth and subsequent offenses when all the convictions are nonviolent.

ACT 280 - Probation & Parole Revisions - Martiny (R-Metairie) **Goal: Strengthen Community Supervision and Implement Evidence-Based Practices**

- Moves up eligibility dates for parole and good-behavior release and extends eligibility to certain inmates;
- Authorizes administrative parole release for certain nonviolent offenders;
- Incentivizes participation in intensive recidivism reduction and employment programs;
- Expands eligibility for probation and other prison alternatives;
- Reduces the maximum probation term from five to three years;
- Creates earned compliance credits that can reduce supervision terms by up to half for those who fulfill their conditions;
- Caps jail time as a sanction for supervision violations at 15, 30, and 45 days for first, second, and subsequent sanctions, respectively; and
- Expands the list of violations eligible for those sanctions.

ACT 277 - Juvenile Life Without Parole - Claitor (R-Baton Rouge) **Goal: Bring Louisiana Law in Line With Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decision**

- Changes eligibility for parole consideration for people sentenced to life without parole for crimes committed when they were younger than 18. All new parole eligibility provisions have additional programming and institutional discipline requirements that must be met.



Louisiana Family Forum Criminal Justice Reform Efforts

LFF Supported Legislation:

ACT 258 - Victim Notification - Dwight (R-Lake Charles) **Goal: Promote and Honor Victims' Rights**

- Gives registered crime victims a right to submit a 'reentry statement' to the committee on parole for discretionary hearings with requested proximity and contact restrictions;
- Requires the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement to develop and provide an electronic victim registration and notification system by August 2018.

ACT 260 - Criminal Justice Obligations - Magee (R-Houma) **Goal: Remove Barriers to Re-entry**

- Tailors criminal justice fines and fees to a defendant's ability to pay;
- Creates a payment plan for those facing financial hardship; and
- Creates debt forgiveness for those who pay on time for 12 months or half their supervision term, whichever is longer.

ACT 262 - Post-Incarceration Occupational Licenses - Emerson (R-Lafayette) **Goal: Remove Barriers to Re-entry**

- Simplifies the process for those with criminal convictions to apply for and receive occupational licenses.

ACT 264 - Child Support Duties While Incarcerated - Marino (D-Gretna) **Goal: Remove Barriers to Re-entry**

- Suspends child support obligations for inmates incarcerated for more than six months.
- Suspends child support payments for inmates incarcerated for more than six months based on inability to pay. Does not eliminate responsibility to pay at a later date.

ACT 265 - Expand SNAP Benefits - Moreno (D-New Orleans) **Goal: Remove Barriers to Re-entry**

- Lifts the ban on nutritional assistance and welfare benefits for people with drug convictions.

ACT 261 - Reinvest Correctional Savings - Leger (D-New Orleans) **GOAL: Reinvest Correctional Savings**

- Mandates the collection of data to monitor the reforms;
- Requires the state to redirect 70% of savings into community-based prison alternatives, victim services, and recidivism-reduction programs in the DOC and local jails.