

THE SENTENCING REFORM AND CORRECTIONS ACT of 2015

Key Provisions Contained in the Bill:

- **Reforms and Targets Enhanced Mandatory Minimums for Prior Drug Felons:** The bill reduces the enhanced penalties that apply to repeat drug offenders and eliminates the three-strike mandatory life provision, but it allows those enhanced penalties to be applied to offenders with prior convictions for serious violent and serious drug felonies.
- **Broadens the Existing Safety Valve and Creates a Second Safety Valve:** The bill expands the existing safety valve to offenders with more extensive criminal histories but excludes defendants with prior felonies and violent or drug trafficking offenses unless a court finds those prior offenses substantially overstate the defendant's criminal history and danger of recidivism. The bill also creates a second safety valve that gives judges discretion to sentence certain low-level offenders below the 10-year mandatory minimum. But defendants convicted of serious violent and serious drug felonies cannot benefit from these reforms.
- **Reforms Enhanced Mandatory Minimums and Sentences for Firearm Offenses:** The bill expands the reach of the enhanced mandatory minimum for violent firearm offenders to those with prior federal or state firearm offenses but reduces that mandatory minimum to provide courts with greater flexibility in sentencing. The bill also raises the statutory maximum for unlawful possession of firearms but lowers the enhanced mandatory minimum for repeat offenders.
- **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 and Certain Sentencing Reforms Retroactively**
- **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 religious studies. 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.
- **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**