



Bill Summary: Probation Reform in Pennsylvania SB 14 (Williams, Bartolotta, Street)

What the bill would do: If passed, SB 14 would reform how long Pennsylvanians stay on probation, and the time served in prison for probation violations. FAMM supports this bill.

Who it would help: The bill would help people being sentenced to or already on probation on or after the date the bill becomes law, and people who, when the bill is enacted, are serving more than one year in prison for an administrative violation of probation, if they meet certain criteria.

Bill status: This bill is not yet a law. It cannot become enacted as a law until it is approved by committees, passed by the Pennsylvania House and the Senate, and signed by the governor.

If passed, SB 14 would

- Require early termination of supervised probation after a person has served 18 months of probation without violation or revocation
- Cap probation terms for felonies at 5 years
- Cap probation terms for misdemeanors at 3 years
- Ban courts from extending probation terms because a person failed to pay a fine, cost, or restitution, if the person is not financially able to pay such amounts
- Instruct courts on when they can send people to prison for revocations of parole:
 - o For people revoked from probation for an administrative violation, return to prison is capped at 30 days
 - o For people convicted of new misdemeanor offenses, return to prison is capped at 60 days
 - o For people convicted of new felony offenses, courts may use alternatives to incarceration that were available at the time of the original sentencing
 - o For people whose conduct indicates they are likely to commit more crimes, and no alternative sentencing option will decrease that likelihood, return to prison is capped at 30 days
 - o Retroactive application: The bill would allow people whose probation was revoked and who received a prison sentence of more than one year to petition the court for resentencing according to the new rules if
 - The revocation and sentence of imprisonment were for an administrative violation of probation;
 - The person has had no disciplinary infractions while in prison; and
 - The person has had no new criminal charges or convictions while on probation.
 - The person may only petition for such a resentencing once, unless new grounds arise for a second petition later on.