

Justice Reinvestment



Senate Bill 64

House Bill 1429

An Act to Increase Neighborhood Safety and Opportunity

Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz (D-Boston) and Rep. Mary Keefe (D-Worcester) and 55 co-sponsoring legislators have filed an omnibus bill backed by a large coalition of community, religious, and union organizations to improve Massachusetts' systems of criminal justice, end mass incarceration, and re-invest in our communities through job and educational opportunity. Included in the bill are:

I. Criminal Justice Reforms

- **Repeal Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentences** – This would restore judicial discretion in sentencing for drug charges, reducing the risk of longer than warranted prison terms;
- **Reduce Certain Low-Level Felonies to Misdemeanors** – Under this scenario certain offenses (such as shoplifting or other petty theft, or low-level drug charges) would be made misdemeanors, with different sanctions that rely less on long and expensive terms of incarceration;
- **End Collateral Sanctions at the RMV** – This would eliminate the current law allowing the Registry of Motor Vehicles to confiscate the license of a person convicted of any drug offense (even where charges are unrelated to the operation of a vehicle) for up to 5 years and charge at least \$500 to reinstate it; and
- **Extraordinary Medical Placement** – This would allow a judge to decide whether a person who is permanently incapacitated or terminally ill should be transferred out of prison for treatment, remaining under state custody.
- **Bail Reform**—though not in this bill, we are also supporting a separate Bail Reform Bill so people are no longer in prison just because they could not raise bail for less serious crimes

II. Jobs and Schools The final sections of the bill establish a Trust fund with the cost savings from these improvements in the criminal justice system. Trust funds will be used to right our unbalanced economy by investing in evidence-based practices including job development efforts for youth, veterans, victims of violence, and other people with significant barriers to employment, and supporting programs that help at-risk youth to stay in school. Programs supported by the Trust will include:

- **Job training programs** to address the skills gaps identified by Massachusetts industry leaders;
- **Transitional job and pre-apprenticeship programs** to prepare people for today's workforce and place them in good, living-wage jobs;
- **Youth jobs** that provide both sustenance and experience;
- Initiatives to **create new jobs** through **social enterprises, coops**, and other businesses; and
- Evidence-based programs that specialize in **drop-out prevention and recovery**, giving youth a second chance at academic achievement and setting them on a path to success.

NOTE: Legislators are also filing many of the above sections as separate, individual bills: Mandatory minimums: Sen. Creem and Rep. Swan; Extraordinary Medical Placement: Sen. Jehlen and Rep. Toomey; RMV Collateral Sanctions: Sen. Chandler and Rep. Malia.

For more info, contact: Steve O'Neill of EPOCA (508) 410-7676 steve@exprisoners.org, Lew Finfer of MCAN: (617) 470-2912 LewFinfer@gmail.com, Rev. Paul Ford of BWA RevFord@BostonWorkersAlliance.org (617) 955-0559, Elena Letona of Neighbor to Neighbor (617) 997-7503 Elena@N2NMA.org, Rev. Laura Ahart, Black Ministerial Alliance (857) 492-1634

Sponsors/Co-Sponsors of the Legislation

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex (Senate Only)</i>
<i>Evandro Carvalho</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Kenneth J. Donnelly</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex (Senate Only)</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlos, Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex (Senate Only)</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Sheriff Steven Tompkins</i>	<i>Suffolk County Sheriff 20 Bradston Street Boston, MA 02118</i>
<i>Carmine Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>

<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balseer</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk (Senate Only)</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>11th Essex (Senate Only)</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire (House Only)</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex (House Only)</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester (House Only)</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester (House Only)</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk (House Only)</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex (House Only)</i>

We are additionally supporting this Bail Reform Law

HD3156 Pretrial and Bail Reform – Rep. Sannicandro & Sen. Donnelly

Why do we need reform?

Bail decisions were intended to be made based on the likelihood of a person returning to court. Instead, whether you are released or not on pretrial is many times decided by your ability to pay the amount set by a judge. A wealth-based system keeps people in jail when they could otherwise safely remain in the community while awaiting trial. The current system is incredibly costly to taxpayers by keeping too many detained, is a crucial driver in the issue of overpopulation in our jails and prisons, and does not increase public safety. In fact, the current system poses adverse risks to those who are detained but not convicted of crimes.

Justice Reinvestment Act

An Act to Increase Neighborhood Safety and Opportunity

Fighting Mass Incarceration that disproportionately impacts people of color

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