



THE SENTENCING REFORM AND CORRECTIONS ACT of 2017

Reforms & Targets Enhanced Mandatory Minimums for Prior Drug Felons

The bill reduces the enhanced penalties for certain non-violent repeat drug offenders and eliminates the three-strike mandatory life provision. It also, for the first time, allows those enhanced penalties to be applied to offenders with prior convictions for serious violent and serious drug felonies.

Increases Judicial Discretion for Sentencing of Certain Nonviolent Offenders

The bill expands the existing safety valve to offenders with broader 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 felonies and serious drug felonies cannot benefit from these reforms.

Reforms Enhanced Mandatory Minimums & Sentences for Firearm Offenses

The bill clarifies that the enhanced mandatory minimum sentence for using a firearm during a crime of violence or drug crime is limited to offenders who have previously been convicted and served a sentence for such an offense. Additionally, the bill provides judges with further discretion to sentence individuals who possess a firearm illegally, provided that the firearm was not brandished or discharged in relation to a crime of violence or drug trafficking.

Creates New Mandatory Minimums for Interstate Domestic Violence & Certain Export Control Violations, and New Mandatory Enhancement for Trafficking of Fentanyl-Laced Heroin

The bill adds new mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes involving interstate domestic violence, creates a new mandatory minimum for providing weapons and other defense materials to prohibited countries and terrorists, and creates a new five-year sentencing enhancement for trafficking of heroin laced with fentanyl.

Applies the Fair Sentencing Act and Certain Sentencing Reforms Retroactively

The bill allows certain nonviolent offenders to petition courts for an individualized review of their sentence, which can be reduced only after the sentencing judge reviews all circumstances in a case, including public safety, criminal history, and the nature of the offense.

Establishes Recidivism Reduction Programs to Facilitate Successful Reentry

The bill requires the Department of Justice to conduct risk assessments to classify all federal inmates according to their recidivism risk and to use the results to assign inmates to appropriate recidivism reduction programs, including work and education programs, drug rehabilitation, job training, and faith-based programs. 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 reentry center.

Limits Solitary Confinement for Juveniles in Federal Custody & Improves Accuracy of Federal Criminal Records

Provides for a Report and Inventory of All Federal Criminal Offenses

Creates National Criminal Justice Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system, which has not been done in more than 50 years.

