



SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Resolution 169 Printer's No. 1093

Prime Sponsor: Senator Greenleaf
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

Urging the President and the United States Congress to enact criminal justice reform legislation.

SUMMARY:

Recognizes the following facts:

- The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world.
- The federal prison population increased by 720% from 1980 to 2015.
- The number of Americans incarcerated for drug offenses increased from 40,900 in 1980 to 469,545 in 2015.
- The number of federal statutory crimes has increased from 3,000 in the early 1980s to more than 5,000 today.
- A federal report on prison growth concluded that the population growth in federal prisons was driven by the expansion of drug and weapons offenses and by mandatory minimum sentences.
- The report estimated that the federal government could reduce the prison population by 60,000 people and save \$5 billion over the next several years by, among other things, reserving prison beds for the most serious federal crimes, by promoting rehabilitation in prison, and by ensuring successful reintegration of offenders by reinvesting savings in necessary supervision and treatment.
- States, including Pennsylvania, have instituted reforms to reduce prison populations and make their criminal justice systems smarter, fairer, less costly, and more efficient.

Urges the President and the Congress to enact legislation to provide for criminal justice reform.

Prepared by: Cawley 9/29/2017