Alaska’s Justice Reinvestment Report

Final Recommendations of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

The Problem Facing Alaska

- The Cost of Doing Nothing
- Trends in Alaska’s Prison Population
- Recommendations for Alaska’s Lawmakers
Prison Growth in Alaska

27% Growth since 2004

$324 Million Annual Cost

Prison Capacity Exceeded

$169 Million Additional Cost

2017
Prison Growth in Alaska

What is driving this growth?

Defendants in prison pretrial are staying for longer periods of time.

Three-quarters of the sentenced population is convicted of non-violent offenses.

Felony offenders are staying 31% longer than in 2004.

22% of prison inmates are there for technical violations of parole or probation.
Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

“The Commission shall evaluate and make recommendations to improve criminal laws and practices, keeping in mind the goals of enhancing public safety, offender rehabilitation, victim restitution and reducing costs.”

Alaska’s Senate Bill 64 (2014)

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<th>September 2014</th>
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<th>Alaska Judicial Council</th>
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<td>First Meeting of ACJC</td>
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Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

- Legislative Branch
  - Sen. John Coghill (Non-Voting)
  - Rep. Wes Keller (Non-Voting)
- Judicial Branch
  - Alex Bryner
    Chief Justice, Alaska Supreme Court (Retired)
  - Stephanie Rhoades
    District Court Judge
  - Trevor Stephens
    Superior Court Judge
- Department of Corrections
  - Walt Monegan
    Acting Commissioner
- Law Enforcement
  - Craig Richards
    Attorney General
  - Gary Folger
    Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
  - Lt. Kris Sell
    Juneau Police Department
- Public Defender
  - Quinlan Steiner
- Alaska Natives
  - Gregory Razo (Chair)
    Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
- Crime Victims
  - Brenda Stanfill
    Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living
- Alaska Mental Health Trust
  - Jeff Jessee
    CEO
Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

“We have asked for recommendations that enhance public safety, strengthen alternatives to prison, and determine which criminal defendants and offenders can be safely managed with those alternatives….

[W]e call on the Commission to develop policy options for the Legislature to consider aimed at meeting the following goal posts: 1) averting all future prison growth; 2) averting all future prison growth and reducing the current prison population by 15 percent; and 3) averting all future prison growth and reducing the current prison population by 25 percent.”

Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

Data

Drivers Analysis

System Assessment

Research & Outreach

Research Review

Site Visits & Round-Tables

Policy

Specialized Sub-Groups

Consensus Process

Report Issued
Alaska’s Justice Reinvestment Report

December 10
Report Issued

21
Policy Recommendations

Pre-Trial Detention
Sentencing
Community Supervision
Reinvestment
Alaska’s Justice Reinvestment Report

Focus prison beds on the most serious offenders

Safely release and supervise defendants awaiting trial

Make communities safer by strengthening supervision

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Expand proven programs to reduce recidivism and substance abuse

Reinvest in services to prevent violence and support victims
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21% Reduction in Prison Population Projected by 2024

$424 Million in Savings to State

Reinvestment Priorities

- Pre-Trial Supervision
- Victim Services
- Violence Prevention
- Treatment Services
- Reentry & Support Services
**Policy Recommendations**

**Recommendation 5:**
Limit the use of prison for low-level misdemeanor offenders

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**Policy Recommendations**

**Recommendation 2:**
Utilize risk-based release decision-making for pre-trial defendants

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Policy Recommendations

Recommendation 14:
Establish a system of earned compliance credits for offenders on community supervision

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Questions?

Report and research available at www.ajc.state.ak.us