



Bill Summary: Just Sentencing Act HB 2270 (Blackman)

The Bill: Currently, Arizona is one of only two states that requires all prisoners to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences (the final 15 percent is served on community supervision). HB 2270 would increase earned time credit for some categories of offenders (see below). The bill would also ensure that people are not held in prison for the portion of their sentence that they should spend on community supervision simply because they are unable to attain a sufficient literacy level. FAMM supports this bill.

Who it would help: Prisoners serving time in Arizona state prisons who are eligible for earned time credit.

Bill Status: *This bill is not yet law.* To become law, it must go through the committee process, pass through both the Arizona Senate and House of Representatives, and be signed by the governor.

If passed, HB 2270 would:

- Change earned time credits for eligible prisoners as follows:
 - One day credit for every six days served (85 percent) for prisoners sentenced for a dangerous crime against children under Section 13-705.
 - One day credit for every three days served (75 percent) for prisoners sentenced for a dangerous offense under Section 13-704.
 - One day credit for every one day served (50 percent) for all other prisoners, including those serving a prison term for a revocation of probation or community supervision.
- Eliminate the requirement under section 31-229.02 that prisoners must reach the eighth grade functional literacy level before they can be released into community supervision.
- Maintain the current requirement that prisoners serve 15 percent of the sentence imposed on community supervision.
- Maintain current law that allows the Department of Corrections director to withdraw all or part of a prisoner's earned time credit for failure to follow prison rules and regulations or participate in rehabilitative programs and work.