



Bill Summary: Earned Release Credit Reform in Arizona HB 2713 (Blackman)

The Bill: Currently, Arizona is one of only three states that requires all prisoners to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences (the final 15 percent is served on community supervision). HB 2713 would, if passed, increase earned release credits for some categories of people in prison (see below). FAMM supports this bill.

Who it would help, if passed: People serving time in Arizona state prisons (not federal prisons) on the date the bill becomes effective (i.e., 91 days after the 2021 legislative session ends) who are eligible for earned release credits.

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

If passed, HB 2713 would:

- Change earned release credits for eligible people in prison as follows:
 - Six days credit for every six days served (50 percent) for people convicted of drug offenses, except those that involved sales of drugs to minors, if
 - The person is not also serving a sentence for a serious offense or a violent or aggravated felony defined in ARS § 13-706, OR a dangerous crime against children defined in ARS § 13-705, OR has a prior conviction for such an offense in a different state, AND
 - The person completes a substance abuse treatment program or educational or vocational program, or has spent 6 months in a work program.
 - Three days of credit for every six days served (33 percent) for people convicted of other nonviolent offenses, if
 - The person does not have a current conviction for a serious offense or a violent or aggravated felony defined in ARS § 13-706, OR a dangerous crime against children defined in ARS § 13-705, OR has a prior conviction for such an offense in Arizona or a different state that was committed when the person was 18 years old or older, AND
 - The person completes a substance abuse treatment program or educational or vocational program, or has spent 6 months in a work program.
- Eliminate the requirement under ARS § 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 ADCRR 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.