



## **Bill Summary: Habitual Penalty Reform SB 2753, Sen. Sparks**

**Bill Purpose:** Mississippi’s “habitual offender” law requires the maximum sentence without the possibility of parole for people with two or more prior felony convictions, and mandatory life sentences if one of those prior felony convictions is for a crime of violence. Under current law, prior felony convictions count no matter when the crime happened or the person was sentenced for them – in other words, a 25-year-old felony conviction could be used to apply the habitual offender law to a person.

SB 2753 would restrict the application of the habitual penalty by counting only those prior convictions that were committed within the last 15 years.

**FAMM’s Position on the Bill:** Support

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

**What the Bill Would Do:** If passed, SB 2753 would

1. Apply the maximum habitual penalty only to people who’ve had two felony convictions within the past 10 years
2. Apply the mandatory life sentence penalty only to people who’s current offense is a crime of violence, and who have two prior felonies, one which is a crime of violence, for which the person was convicted within the past 15 years
3. Allow people sentenced before SB 2753 becomes law to seek parole, if they would not have received a habitual offender sentence based on the changes made in SB 2753

