

COLORADO COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE

RECOMMENDATION PRESENTED TO THE CCJJ

July 13, 2012

FY13-CCJJ #1 Continue the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice beyond the statutory terminate date of June 30, 2012.

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The critical mission of the Commission--to study and make recommendations that ensure public safety, respect the rights of crime victims, and reduce recidivism, and that are evidence-based, cost-effective, and sensitive to disproportionate minority overrepresentation—requires ongoing effort. C.R.S. 16-11.3-105 should be amended to remove the termination date.

Discussion

The 26-member Commission was established by the General Assembly in 2007. Its membership consists of 17 appointed representatives of specific stakeholder groups and nine members based on their official position in state government. Much work is accomplished through the Commission's many task forces and committees which are comprised of both Commission and non-commission members. Members of the Commission and its task forces have committed hundreds of hours of collaborative work to improving the administration of justice.

Selected accomplishments include the following:

- Promulgated a new, evidence-based, accountability/treatment sentencing philosophy for drug-involved offenders and reduced criminal penalties for use and possession drug crimes; reinvested estimated savings into treatment;
- Supported successful grant applications that resulted in \$5M in federal funds directed to behavioral health initiatives for the purpose of reducing recidivism;
- Recommended reforms to DUI laws to hold serial offenders more accountable;
- Reduced penalties for parole technical violations and redirected \$3.5 million to community corrections treatment beds and parole wraparound services;
- Improved the process of getting identification cards to hundreds of inmates in jail and prison (removing a major barrier to housing, employment, and obtaining a driver's license);
- Clarified jail good time rules, reducing time served and annually saving millions of dollars in jail costs in counties across the state; and
- 5,000 fewer people per year have drivers' licenses revoked for non-driving crimes (removing a barrier to employment).

Current areas of Commission work include juvenile justice systemic reform, bail, drug policy, sentencing policy, sex offender policy, re-entry, and minority overrepresentation.