



Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice

FY2013 RECOMMENDATION/FY13-CCJJ01 CONTINUE THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE BEYOND THE STATUTORY TERMINATE DATE OF JUNE 30, 2013.

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2013 UPDATE

Action on this recommendation was completed with the passage of Senate Bill 2013-007, which revised the Commission repeal date to July 1, 2018.

2012 ACTION/IMPLEMENTATION

This recommendation requires statutory change to be implemented.

Description

The critical mission of the Commission--to study and make recommendations that ensure public safety, respect the rights of crime victims, 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.

Agencies Responsible

Discussion

The 26-member Commission was established by the General Assembly in 2007. Its membership consists of 18 appointed representatives of specific stakeholder groups and eight members based on their official position in state government. Commission membership also includes one non-voting member based on position (the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Public Safety). 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.