

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2051

As Recommended by House Committee on
Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Brief*

HB 2051 would increase the amount of good time credit an inmate sentenced for a drug severity level 3 crime committed on or after July 1, 2012, may earn, from 15 percent to 20 percent. The bill would allow the same inmates to earn program credits. Finally, the bill would increase the amount of time that may be earned by any eligible inmate for program credits from 60 days to 90 days.

The bill would direct the Secretary of Corrections to make the good time and program credit calculations authorized by the bill no later than January 1, 2016, and the provisions of the bill would be construed and applied retroactively.

The bill would be effective on January 1, 2016.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice at the request of the Kansas Sentencing Commission.

In the House Committee, the executive director of the Kansas Sentencing Commission and the Secretary of Corrections testified in support of the bill. There was no neutral or opponent testimony.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Sentencing Commission estimates the bill would reduce adult prison bed needs by 119 beds in FY 2016 and by 181 beds by FY 2017.

As of January 12, 2015, available prison bed capacity is 9,636. Based upon the Sentencing Commission's most recent 10-year projection, the year-end population will exceed available male capacity by 85 inmates in FY 2015, 109 inmates in FY 2016, and 162 inmates in FY 2017. The bill would alleviate the projected shortfalls in FY 2016 and FY 2017, although the Department of Corrections may need to house inmates in contract beds in FY 2015. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.

In addition to the bed estimates described above, the Sentencing Commission's bed impact assessment for the bill indicates it would save 173 prison beds in FY 2025.