HB 585 of 2014

• Defined crimes of violence

• Mandatory minimums for those convicted of violent and nonviolent crimes.
  • 50% of sentence for violent crimes.
  • 25% of sentence for nonviolent crimes

• More alternatives to incarceration.
HB 585 was a SUCCESS

MDOC has reduced its expenditures by $40 Million since FY 2014.

Mississippi’s prison population dropped 11% in the first year.
HB 387 of 2018

- Put an end to debtor’s prison for failure to pay fines
- Expands eligibility for parole.
- Gave judges the power to deviate from the mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent habitual convictions.
- Created the Sentence Disparity Task Force to research and make recommendation to eliminate sentencing disparity.
2019 Criminal Justice Reform HB 1352

- Expanded Intervention Courts
- Ends Driver’s License Suspension for Drug Offenses
- Creates a presumption that non-violent offenders will be released while waiting trial
- Expands expungement eligibility
- Drug offenders may access programs under SNAP.
Barriers to Entry

- Not having valid identifications, social security card, and birth certificate
- Lack of access to medical, mental and substance abuse treatment.
- Lack of access to housing
- Lack of access to employment
- Lack of family support/ family reunification
- Lack of education
What Mississippi is Doing
Helping Offenders Find Jobs
Job Fairs
Providing Interview Training
Teaching Professional Dress
“This was my first time to learn how to tie a tie..”
Meeting with Employers

This photo was taken at a Re-Entry Symposium
Mr. Smith was a former inmate and now holds a master’s degree from the University of Southern Miss.
Providing Education
CDL Training Simulation
FIRST Step Act