

ACLU-PA Position: Support

Bill summary

[SB 500](#) is one of three Justice Reinvestment (JRI) bills introduced this session — SB 500, SB 501, and SB 502. Together, they are referred to as JRI II. This bill would establish the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The Committee is tasked with funding and overseeing improvements to county probation. The bill also provides a funding mechanism to support the Justice Reinvestment Fund and county adult probation and parole departments.

Bill details

Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee

SB 500 would establish the Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The Committee will:

- Review grants and develop a funding formula for county adult probation and parole departments and county intermediate punishment programs;
- Provide guidance on the administration of county adult probation and parole;
- Make recommendations and implement standards for probation and parole personnel, including standards for services, caseload standards, risk assessment, responses to violations, and other evidence-based programs and practices;
- Assist the Commission on Crime and Delinquency with implementing county intermediate punishments;
- Absorb the funding, powers, and duties of the County Probation Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission;
- Report annually to the governor and the General Assembly on the distribution and use of funds to counties.

Funding

SB 500 would provide a funding mechanism to support programs and initiatives that improve public safety:

- For fiscal years 2020 through 2024, the Office of the Budget will calculate correctional savings as a result of using short sentence parole, increased use of the state drug treatment program, and the use of sanctions for technical parole violations.
- The savings generated will be deposited into the Justice Reinvestment fund, which will be used to compensate crime victims, to implement the Sentencing Commissions' risk assessment and justice reinvestment sentencing features, and to fund county probation and parole departments.

Funding County Probation and Parole

- SB 500 appropriates annual funding to the Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the purpose of formula funding county probation and parole departments.

Bill status

- Read and check the bill status here: [SB 500](#).