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AB 277 (McCarty) Community Reintegration Credits
FACT SHEET

Sponsor: Anti-Recidivism Coalition (Lead Sponsor)

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SUMMARY

AB 277 will reduce recidivism in California prisons and jails by incentivizing people on parole to meet educational goals and participate in rehabilitation programs beyond parole requirements.

ISSUE

Upon release from a state prison, formerly incarcerated individuals often enter supervised parole to help them successfully reintegrate into society.

California has a 20 to 1 parolee to staff ratio, which is expected to increase as criminal justice reforms continue. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported in the *2017 Outcome Evaluation Report* that the recidivism rate within the first three years of release onto parole is 46%. The high rate of recidivism indicates that more must be done to help people on parole successfully reintegrate.

Currently, under Proposition 57, only incarcerated folks that are not classified as condemned and those serving sentences of life without the possibility of parole can be eligible to earn Good Conduct Credit, Milestone Completion Credit, Rehabilitative Achievement Credit, and Educational Merit Credit.

While people on parole are encouraged to seek educational or job training programs needed to re-enter the workforce, they are provided no incentive for successfully completing an educational or job training program. Just as an incarcerated person can

obtain time credit for good behavior while incarcerated, no such incentive exists for folks on parole to complete education, job training or other recidivism reduction programs.

SOLUTION

AB 277 will reduce recidivism and support the reintegration of those with a conviction history by providing those on parole with parole time credit for successfully meeting educational goals and participating in rehabilitation programs beyond parole requirements.

Utilizing successful education and job training programs, AB 277 will create incentive based opportunities, shift parole monitoring goals to focus on goal orientated supervision, reduce taxpayer costs associated with parole and ultimately help people on parole break California's failed cycle of recidivism to become contributing members of society.

SUPPORT

Cut 50 (co-sponsor)

Initiate Justice (co-sponsor)

National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (co-sponsor)

Young Women's Free (co-sponsor)

Legal Services for Prisoner's With Children (co-sponsor)

Root & Rebound (co-sponsor)

Project Rebound (co-sponsor)

Underground Scholars Initiative (co-sponsor)