

Mississippi's Senate Corrections Committee Fails Again

The Mississippi Senate Corrections Committee once again failed to accomplish any meaningful reforms during the 2018 legislative session. Once again, they passed on opportunities to reduce recidivism, promote rehabilitation, and bring needed changes to the state's "corrections" system.

The republicans hold a 6-5 majority over the democrats on the committee. Only two of those republicans bothered introducing corrections-related legislation; apparently the other four see no need for any changes in the system. Three of the democrats on the committee introduced corrections-related legislation; two did not. Seven democrats who are not on the committee introduced legislation that wound up in the committee as well; two republicans who are not on the committee introduced legislation that went to the committee.

All told, 60 bills were sent to the committee. 53 of those bills died in committee on January 30, 2018. Two bills passed committee only to die on the calendar on February 8, 2018. Of the other five bills that actually did pass, every single one of them was nothing more than extensions of repeal dates on current statutes.

I wish I were surprised by the fact that the only thing they accomplished this year was to extend repeal dates on a few statutes, but I'm not.

The lack of progress in Mississippi is saddening, disappointing, aggravating, and much more. But it's not surprising anymore.

Take a look for yourself :

**Mississippi Legislature
2018 Regular Session**

Senate Corrections Committee

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SB2062	Probation and parole officers; limit number of cases that may be handled. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Hill
SB2066	Highway traffic; violation to maliciously impede. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Hill
SB2117	Offender temporary personal leave; MDOC commissioner may grant with certain conditions. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Jackson (32nd)
SB2120	Parole hearings; not required for offenders convicted on or after July 1, 2014, who meet certain other requirements. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Jackson (32nd)
SB2121	Private correctional facilities; must guarantee recidivism rate that is less than MDOC's recidivism rate. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Jackson (32nd)
SB2128	Habitual offenders; revise method of determining whether a felony triggers sentencing as. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Jackson (32nd)
SB2129	Technical violations; clarify meaning of for graduate sanctions and revocation sentencing. 02/08 (S) Died On Calendar	Jackson (32nd)
SB2131	Crimes of violence; remove references to parole and early release in provision designating offenses as. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Jackson (32nd)
SB2132	Youthful Offender Unit; offenders housed in to remain under court's jurisdiction. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Jackson (32nd)
SB2133	Offender case plans; MDOC to develop for parole-eligible offenders convicted on or after July 1, 2014. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Jackson (32nd)
SB2134	Parole; clarify list of offenses that make offenders convicted between 1995-2014 ineligible for. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Jackson (32nd)
SB2157	Trusty status; offenders ineligible to work at Governor's Mansion if incarcerated for a violent crime. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Watson
SB2212	Conviction; clarify subsequent for certain crimes and post-conviction relief. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (13th)
SB2225	Alcohol and Drug Treatment Pilot Program in Bolivar County; extend repeal date. 02/08 (S) Passed	Simmons (13th)
SB2242	Parole; clarify list of offenses that make offenders convicted between 1995-2014 ineligible for. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2248		

	Violent habitual offender; require bifurcated trial. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2249	Juvenile sentencing; provide criteria for determining parole eligibility and require hearing before imposing life without parole. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2251	Trusty and earned-time programs; change eligibility to participate in. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2256	Violent habitual offender; revise. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2257	Habitual offender; revise sentencing. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2258	Habitual offender; revise sentencing. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2260	Controlled substance offenses; revise enhanced penalties. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2262	Habitual offender; revise sentencing as. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2263	Expunction; allow after 20 years' good behavior. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2264	Simple drug possession; reclassify offense. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2265	Expunction of conviction; revise. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2266	Expunction of felony; revise. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2274	Crimes of violence; remove references to parole and early release from provision of law designating offenses as such. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Simmons (12th)
SB2284	Juvenile offenders; provide alternative sentencing and parole options if convicted of certain offenses. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Turner-Ford
SB2327	Criminal history background checks; enact "Ban the Box." 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Horhn
SB2346	Expunction; revise which offenses are eligible. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Blackmon
SB2351	Department of Corrections; provide certain educational programs for adult offenders. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Blackmon
SB2388	Conviction; clarify subsequent for certain crimes and post-conviction relief. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Blackmon
SB2576	Hate crimes; revise delineation of victim. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Blount
SB2637	Overdose death; constitutes manslaughter under certain circumstances. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Carter
SB2646	Prison Overcrowding Emergency Powers Act; extend repeal date. 02/08 (S) Passed	Jackson (32nd)
SB2647	Electronic home detention; extend date of repeal. 02/08 (S) Passed	Jackson (32nd)
SB2648	Correctional facilities; revise penalty for bringing a controlled substance onto the property of. 01/30 (S) Died In Committee	Horhn
SB2649		

MDOC; must remove offenders sentenced to TVCs from county jail within 14 days or reimburse county's housing expenses.

[01/30 \(S\) Died In Committee](#)

[SB2908](#)

County inmate canteen fund; specify types of items that may be purchased from.

[Wilemon](#)

[01/30 \(S\) Died In Committee](#)

KEY:

* = Amended

% = 3/5ths Vote Required

V = Vetoed

\$ = Revenue

@ = Exempted From Deadline

P = Partially Vetoed

Last Update on 02/08/2018 at 18:21

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