

Things to Remember:

- Make sure the Rep knows if you are one of his/her constituents. They are eager to help and listen if they know you are from their district.
- Be sure to make your talking points strong and to get them interested in the bill(s).
- Be polite and remember that they are working so don't keep them tied up long.
- Make eye contact and give them a strong hand shake.
- Know who you are talking to and do not confuse them with someone else.



House bills 752 and 753 would revise the 85% law as follows:

HB 752 - For first-time dangerous felons without previous prison commitments, the minimum mandatory sentence would be 50%, except for those over age 70, for which it would be 40%.

HB 753 - First-time dangerous felons with a previous prison commitment would be evaluated by the parole board after serving 60% of their sentence, and with continued good behavior and rehabilitative efforts would be released after serving 66%, except for those over age 70, for which the minimum mandatory sentence would be 40%.

Missouri CURE

Citizens **U**nited for
Rehabilitation of **E**rrants

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Lobby Day Pointers

March 13, 2013

10:30am

2nd floor East Alcove

Missouri Capitol

Jefferson City, MO



Missouri CURE

Phone: 1-877-525-CURE (2873)

What you can do: Contact your State Representative and set up a time to meet. If you are unable to come to Jeff City and meet with your Rep, you can write a letter, email or call, asking them to support HB752 and HB753. (For information on both bills, go to www.mo.gov, click on the government tab and then click on "Track a Bill").

Once the bills are sent to committee, you can contact the members of that committee and ask them to support the bills and pass them out of committee for a vote of the full House. It's important to keep contacting the Reps along the way to keep the momentum going to get the bills passed.

How to Contact Your State Rep:

- First find out who your Rep is by going to <http://www.house.mo.gov/>
- Type in your 9-digit zip code.
- This will give you both your State Representative and State Senator.
- You can also find out what committee the bills go to and who the committee members are.
- The most important thing is to stay on them and keep their attention towards both bills.

Lobbying Tips:

1. Call ahead and make an appointment
2. Go to the Legislator's office prepared with a copy of the bill(s) and business card, if possible.
3. If s/he is not there, they are probably in session or in committee.
4. If in session, tell the Legislative Assistant (L.A.) that you would like to talk to him or her.
5. Go to the House chamber and speak with the doorkeeper.
6. Give him a business card if you have one and ask to speak with the Rep for 5 minutes. Be sure to mention if you are his or her constituent.
7. If s/he is in committee find out from the L.A. which committee and which room number. Ask the L.A. to accompany you to the committee room and pull him/her out for 2-3 minutes
8. If s/he is speaking in the committee, ask the L.A. to call you when the committee hearing ends so you can speak to him or her.

Some key "Talking Points" to use while Lobbying:

- According to the PEW Institute it costs \$57.16 per inmate per day to incarcerate vs. \$5.03 for parole supervision.
- Missouri's total prisoner population is 31,386 as of December 31, 2012. If you multiply this number by \$57.16 times 365 days a year (31,386 x 57.16 x 365), the total is \$654,818,672.40.
- The state spent over \$654 million last year in housing costs and \$500 million in 2010. The amount rises every year.
- P & P Budget financial summary shows an increase in healthcare costs for offenders of \$10,672,975.
- Thousands of prisoners are currently being held despite being rehabilitated. Many went in as kids and have become mature adults. They have never been given the chance to prove they can be responsible, productive citizens.
- By changing the 85% Law, \$millions more will be available for education, healthcare and job creation. For each prisoner paroled, we save \$52.13 per day, and \$19,027.45 per year of taxpayer dollars. And instead of a drain on our budget, rehabilitated prisoners can themselves become contributing taxpayers.