



## Legislation Summary:

### An Act to expand sentencing options

Initial bill number: [S773](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. William Brownsberger

The purpose of the bill is to increase prisoner participation in work, education, vocational training and/or social skills programs with the goal of rehabilitating the individual and decreasing recidivism by expanding sentencing options. Many states have found it is better to be “smart on crime” rather than “tough on crime” by expanding sentencing reduction strategies and encouraging judicious use of parole.

This bill decreases the amount of time served for some individuals to become eligible for parole once they have served two-thirds of their sentence, and allows for more good time credits to be counted towards release. It also allows for some individuals to be more likely to be released on parole and get supervision and support, which results in better integration into society.

Prisoners should be eligible for services that are essential to reduce reoffending and for rehabilitation even if they have not “earned” access to an essential program.

**League Position:** The LWVMA position on corrections is in favor of “a sound corrections system which provides opportunities for the rehabilitation of the adult and juvenile offender” and supports “measures to promote the offender’s rehabilitation through individualized treatment” and “programs within the Department of Corrections that gradually allow the prisoner more freedom and more responsibility as merited.”