

## Louisiana Special Session Priorities Contradict Trump’s First Step Act

In 2018, President Donald Trump signed the First Step Act (FSA) into law with the goal of reducing the federal prison population while promoting public safety. The FSA package was the product of years of congressional debate and has been lauded by both sides of the aisle. Notably for Louisiana, the FSA contained many policy areas that state leaders are debating right now.

How do Louisiana’s Special Session crime bills compare to the standard set forth by the FSA?

First Step Act (FSA) Policies	Aligned?	Special Session Policies
<p><b>Incentivizes positive behavior and risk reduction for people in criminal justice system by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a system that offers rewards when risk reduction is achieved, requiring the use of incentives for program participation, and expanding good time credit accrual.</li> </ul>	X	<p><b>De-incentivizes positive behavior and risk -reduction for people in the justice system by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capping good time credit at a maximum amount of 15% of the sentence, requiring 85% of the sentence to be served (<b>HB 9</b>).</li> <li>Eliminating earned credits for supervision compliance (<b>HB 9</b>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Promotes early release policies for people who are low-risk to recidivate by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging the use release mechanisms like “prerelease custody,” compassionate release, and early release pilot programs for certain low-risk populations.</li> </ul>	X	<p><b>Restricts early release policies for people who are low-risk to recidivate by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminating parole release for most adults (<b>HB 9</b>)</li> <li>Requiring unanimous votes to grant parole for even the lowest risk, compliant individuals (<b>SB 5</b>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Invests tax dollars in community supports, recidivism-reduction efforts, and research by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-authorizing several grants for bolstering reentry and reducing recidivism and authorizing funds to be used towards reentry research.</li> </ul>	X	<p><b>Invests tax dollars in incarceration by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the amount of time people will spend in prison by restricting release opportunities (<b>HB 9, SB 5</b>), reducing good time credits (<b>HB 9</b>), and relying on longer custodial sanctions for technical violations of supervision (<b>HB 11</b>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Makes prison safer for staff and inmates by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing individuals for safe release back to the community.</li> </ul>	X	<p><b>Makes prison more dangerous for staff and inmates by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removing incentives for rehabilitation for incarcerated individuals.</li> </ul>