

Missouri 2026 Truth in Sentencing Legislation

SB 1294 (Nicola) & SB 894 (Carter) **Identical bills**

Modifies the classification and sentencing of various offenses; repeals provisions requiring minimum prison terms for certain offenses and provides that offenders shall serve a minimum percentage of the imposed term based upon the felony classification; abolishes conditional release; removes preexisting habitual offender statute; and modifies the procedure/establishes a calculation for time served prior to sentencing.

Criminal offenses and penalties

1. Classifies a series of felonies that previously were not classified
2. Modifies felony and offense classes for a series of offenses:
 - Class C felony: not less than 3 years, not more than 10 years
 - Class E felony: applies 4-year statutory maximum
 - Class 1 Elections offenses: reduced from 5 years to 4 years; subject to an extended prison term as pursuant to section 558.016
 - Class 2 Elections offenses: reduced from 5 years to 4 years; subject to an extended prison term as pursuant to section 558.016
3. Allows for extended prison terms for a slew of offenses, pursuant to the state's prior offender statute
4. Expands the definition of "dangerous felony" to include statutory rape in the first degree and statutory sodomy in the first degree, regardless of the age of the victim; and adds 6 more offenses related to human trafficking, physical and sexual abuse, and repeated failure to register as a sex offender.

Minimum time served

1. Repeals current provisions regarding minimum prison terms and provides that offenders shall serve the following percentages of the imposed term based upon the felony classification prior to parole eligibility –
 - Dangerous felony offenders: 85%
 - Class A: 60% to 80%
 - Class B: 40% to 60%
 - Class C: 30% to 50%
 - Class D: 17% to 37%
 - Class E: 17% to 37%
2. Modifies consecutive and concurrent sentences:
 - For **consecutive sentencing**, the court must calculate parole eligibility based on the minimum percentage of the sentences that must be served

- For each felony in the consecutive group, the court must require serving at least 50% of the term before the person can be considered for parole
 - To calculate the total time before parole eligibility, the court adds together half of each sentence's years
 - Ex: If someone is sentenced to 10 years for offense A, and 6 years for offense B, then: 50% of 10 = 5 years and 50% of 6 = 3 years, meaning **8 years must be served** before the person can be considered for parole
 - For **concurrent** sentencing, a person must still serve the minimum required percentage separately for each sentence before parole eligibility; since the sentences overlap, the longest minimum percentage time applies
3. Removes provisions excluding an individual's first term of incarceration prior to probation from being considered a previous commitment. This effectively allows for the first term to be counted for the purpose of determining a (future) minimum prison term
 4. Removes eligibility for probation and parole for aggravated sexual assault against children (previously must have served 30 years and reached the age of 75)
 - Reduces the minimum term for sexual trafficking of a child from 20 to life to 10 to 30 years

Jail time credit

1. Clarifies the calculation of credit toward a sentence for time spent in jail, prison, or custody
 - Currently, credit is based on certification from a sheriff or other custodial officer and is not to exceed the number of days spent in prison, jail, or custody after the offense occurred and before the commencement of the sentence. The proposed changes establish a clear procedure for calculating credit and ensuring those in custody are aware of this credit at sentencing, and that the Department of Corrections is aware of this credit either before or when an individual is transferred to its custody.
 - Time awarded is for the exact number of days spent in custody before sentencing; ex: 30 days in county jail = 30 days removed from final sentence

Conditional Release

1. Removes conditional release terms. Conditional release is a statutorily mandated release, distinct from discretionary parole, that permits offenders to serve the remainder of their sentences under community supervision. Offenders with

dangerous felony offenses are excluded from this release opportunity, as are offenders who have been sentenced to prison four or more times. The terms for conditional release are currently:

- For sentences of 9 years or less, offenders serve the last 1/3 of the term on conditional release
- For sentences 9-15 years, conditional release is the last 3 years of the term
- For sentences exceeding 15 years, conditional release is the last 5 years of the term

SB 882 (Trent) & HB 2637 (Black) **Identical bills**

Modifies provisions relating to criminal offenses, including minimum prison terms and conditional release

Jail time credit (identical language to SB 1294/SB 894)

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 - Currently, credit is based on certification from a sheriff or other custodial officer and is not to exceed the number of days spent in prison, jail, or custody after the offense occurred and before the commencement of the sentence. The proposed changes establish a clear procedure for calculating credit and ensuring those in custody are aware of this credit at sentencing, and that the Department of Corrections is aware of this credit either before or when an individual is transferred to its custody.
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Minimum time served (identical language to SB 1294/SB 894)

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 - Class A: 60% to 80%
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 - Class C: 30% to 50%
 - Class D: 17% to 37%
 - Class E: 17% to 37%
2. Expands the definition of “dangerous felony” to include statutory rape in the first degree and statutory sodomy in the first degree, regardless of the age of the victim; and adds 6 more offenses related to human trafficking, physical and sexual abuse, and repeated failure to register as a sex offender.
3. Modifies consecutive and concurrent sentences:
 - For **consecutive sentencing**, the court must calculate parole eligibility based on the minimum percentage of the sentences that must be served

- For each felony in the consecutive group, the court must require serving at least 50% of the term before the person can be considered for parole
 - To calculate the total time before parole eligibility, the court adds together half of each sentence's years
 - Ex: If someone is sentenced to 10 years for offense A, and 6 years for offense B, then: 50% of 10 = 5 years and 50% of 6 = 3 years, meaning **8 years must be served** before the person can be considered for parole
 - For **concurrent** sentencing, a person must still serve the minimum required percentage separately for each sentence before parole eligibility; since the sentences overlap, the longest minimum percentage time applies.
4. Removes provisions limiting/allows for an individual's first term of incarceration prior to probation to be considered a previous commitment for the purpose of determining a (future) minimum prison term

Conditional Release (identical language to SB 1294/SB 894)

1. Removes conditional release terms. Conditional release is a statutorily mandated release, distinct from discretionary parole, that permits offenders to serve the remainder of their sentences under community supervision. Offenders with dangerous felony offenses are excluded from this release opportunity, as are offenders who have been sentenced to prison four or more times. The terms for conditional release are currently:
- For sentences of 9 years or less, offenders serve the last 1/3 of the term on conditional release
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SB 1437 (Schroer)

Modifies current law as it applies to individuals sentenced as repeat offenders and imposes requirements on prosecutors to seek sentence enhancements as defined by statute.

Criminal procedure

1. Provides that prosecutors must comply with and execute state law as it relates to criminal procedure and establishes guidelines for the charging and removal of a prosecuting attorney who does not charge, plead, or prove a defendant's eligibility for an enhancement
2. Requires circuit courts to abide by sentence enhancements for eligible defendants.
3. Authorizes the attorney general to initiate civil complaints against a prosecuting attorney and/or initiate proceedings against a judge who forfeits rights to their office under the provisions of this bill.
4. Prohibits plea agreements for defendants who are found guilty of committing or attempting to commit certain enumerated offenses

Criminal offenses and penalties

1. Increases the sentencing ranges for felonies as follows:

Felony Class	Current Sentence Range	Proposed Sentence Range
Class A	10 to 30 years	15 to 40 years
Class B	5 to 15 years	10 to 20 years
Class C	3 to 10 years	5 to 15 years
Class D	Maximum of 7 years	3 to 10 years
Class E	Maximum of 4 years	2 to 5 years

2. Eliminates judicial discretion as it relates to sentencing a person convicted of a class D or E felony to less than one year in the county jail
3. Provides that an individual who has committed a prior felony offense and is found guilty of a class A felony must be sentenced to the maximum term of years for that felony offense (excluding life imprisonment)
4. Requires the court to sentence an individual classified as a prior felony offender who has committed a class A felony to life imprisonment
 - If the individual committed a B, C, D, or E felony, the court must sentence the individual to the maximum term of years for the felony class that is one class

higher than the offense for which the person was found guilty (excludes life imprisonment)

5. Defines a “persistent felony offender” as an individual who has been found guilty of two felonies of any class or one class B felony or above
6. Requires persistent felony offenders who committed a B, C, D, or E felony to be sentenced to the maximum term of imprisonment that is two classes higher than the offense for which the person has been convicted (includes life imprisonment)
 - If the individual committed a class A felony, the court must impose a life imprisonment sentence
7. Defines “persistent misdemeanor offender” as a person who has been convicted of three misdemeanors
8. Requires the court to sentence a persistent misdemeanor offender who has been found guilty of a class A, B, or C misdemeanor to the maximum term of imprisonment for a class E felony
9. Specifies that a term of imprisonment imposed pursuant to the provisions of this bill shall not be suspended, waived, or reduced by any other means, including by the parole board
10. Provides that the imposed sentence cannot be served in a community or nonsecure setting
11. Requires that the individual must serve the maximum term of imprisonment allowable under law for a felony of the respective class

SB 1074 (Hudson)

Repeals provisions establishing the Sentencing and Corrections Oversight Commission, which expired on August 28, 2025, as well as compliance credits for offenders on probation, parole, or conditional release and good-time credits for offenders incarcerated in the Department of Corrections.

Sentencing Commission

1. Abolishes the Sentencing and Corrections Oversight Commission
 - Section 217.147 deleted entirely; expired August 2025
2. Due to the abolishment of the Commission, the bill removes the Sentencing and Corrections Oversight Commission from conducting biannual reviews of reports on the use of restraints on a pregnant offender in her third trimester or on a postpartum offender forty-eight hours postdelivery
 - Reviews to continue under the Director of Women's Programs
3. Removes the required educational training about the Sentencing Commission for correctional officers

Conditional Release/Earned Time Credits

1. Does away with earned time credits
 - Retains that the court may terminate a period of probation and discharge the defendant at any time before completion of the specific term if warranted by the conduct of the defendant and the ends of justice
2. Removes the ability of Probation and Parole to modify an individual's probation sentence

HB 2256 (Hovis)

Makes changes to sentencing, presentence investigation, and minimum prison terms.

Presentence and pre-parole investigations

1. In all Felony and Misdemeanor A cases, requires the Division of Probation and Parole to provide the sentencing judge a report identifying available alternatives to incarceration prior to sentencing in all felony cases where:
 - the Sentencing Advisory Commission's recommended sentence includes probation, but
 - the prosecuting or circuit attorney's recommendation does not include probation

Minimum time served

1. Increases the minimum prison term required to be served before parole eligibility for individuals with one or two prior felony convictions:
 - from 40% to 50% of the sentence; or
 - from 30% to 40% for individuals who reach 70 years of age
2. Mandates individuals found guilty of a felony other than a dangerous felony after August 28, 2026, to serve a minimum prison term based on the number of prior felony convictions
3. Excludes felony offenses committed with a deadly weapon from minimum prison term requirements
4. Removes language exempting individuals convicted of a felony offense not listed in Section 558.019(2) (serious offenses) prior to August 28, 2019, thereby expanding the scope of offenses subject to prior conviction and minimum prison term requirement statutes
5. Modifies statute to remove the requirement for previous prison commitments and instead considers previous convictions