

Idaho Department of
Correction Mission

To promote a
safer Idaho by
reducing
recidivism.

The Idaho Department of
Correction is working with
partners to implement the
Idaho Justice
Reinvestment Initiative.

The new laws goals are to
improve public safety,
reduce recidivism, and
slow prison growth.

Idaho Department of Correction

Implementing the most significant
change to Idaho's criminal justice
system in 28 years



Idaho Justice Reinvestment Initiative

The report, legislation, and communication regarding IRJI
are available at idoc.idaho.gov.

Click the Justice Reinvestment button on the home page

- Justice Reinvestment in Idaho, Justice Center, The Council of State Government Report
- Senate Bill 1357, Justice Reinvestment Bill
- Senate Bill 1393, Justice Reinvestment Oversight
- Brief Sheets
- FAQs for inmates and supervised offenders

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Idaho Justice Reinvestment Initiative Overview

September 2014



"I applaud everyone who worked tirelessly to produce the legislation that I was pleased to sign today. For the people of Idaho it will mean safer communities and better use of taxpayer dollars."

-Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter

Justice Reinvestment

The Idaho Justice Reinvestment Initiative seeks to increase safety and contain the cost of corrections in Idaho. The House and Senate unanimously approved Senate Bill 1357, and Governor Otter signed the measure into law in March 2014.

The Report

The Governor, Court, and lawmakers invited the Council of State Governments Justice Center to review Idaho's criminal justice system. The resulting report provided a framework for change.

Senator Patti Anne Lodge and Representative Rich Wills drafted Justice Reinvestment legislation. It changes 20 different statutes, and provides new tools for increasing safety without adding prison beds.

The new law focuses on three core areas to achieve change.



Strengthening Supervision

Justice Reinvestment strengthens supervision by providing more resources and standardized tools.

Idaho Response Matrix

The Idaho Response Matrix standardizes incentives to reward positive behavior, and defines sanctions to correct negative behavior.

Incentives include written recognition, reduced supervision, and tokens for rewards.

Sanctions include increased drug testing, discretionary jail time, and curfews.

The matrix adds consistency yet keeps officer discretion intact.

Early Release

The law provides new parameters for early release for probationers and parolees.

- For probationers, the court must rule on discharge requests within 60 days.
- For parolees, the parole commission must respond to discharge requests in 90 days.

Limited Supervision Unit (LSU)

Those not eligible for release may be eligible for transfer to the limited supervision unit. The lower supervision is one reward for good behavior.

Training & Caseload

The law increases training and suggests lower caseloads to give officers more time to focus on evidence-based practices.

Prison Beds for High Risk

Justice Reinvestment seeks to use prison beds for the most violent or greatest risk prisoners.

Judges now receive recidivism data to assist with sentencing.

In prisons, inmates are assigned to programming so they complete them at their earliest possible release date. In communities, more treatment money adds resources. A gap analysis will help determine if enough programs are available.

For parolees, time spent in prison on a violation is capped at 90 days for the first offense, and 180 for the second offense.

Track Effectiveness

Justice Reinvestment requires mandatory reporting. A treatment gap analysis, release report, and recidivism-by-program analysis will allow Idaho to invest in programs that work, ensure program space is adequate to serve needs, and assess the timely release of inmates.