

SENATE BILL 2351

By Kelsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 39; Title 40 and Title 41, relative to the  
creation of the Tennessee criminal justice reform  
council.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, is amended by adding the following language as a new chapter:

41-52-101.

(a) There is created the Tennessee criminal justice reform council, referred to in this chapter as the "council", the purpose of which includes, but is not limited to, a review of the following issues:

- (1) Truth in sentencing;
- (2) Pretrial release;
- (3) Reentry programs;
- (4) Probation and parole reform;
- (5) Community based corrections; and
- (6) Correctional innovations to decrease levels of recidivism among state inmates.

(b) The primary goals of the council include, but are not limited to, ensuring public safety and saving state taxpayer dollars through justice reinvestment.

41-52-102.

The council shall be composed of twenty-one (21) members as follows:

(1) Two (2) representatives from the Tennessee district attorneys general conference, to be appointed by the executive committee of the district attorneys general conference;

(2) One (1) judge, to be appointed by the administrative director of the Tennessee administrative office of the courts;

(3) The commissioner of correction, or the commissioner's designee;

(4) The commissioner of safety, or the commissioner's designee;

(5) The chairman of the board of parole, or the chairman's designee;

(6) The chairman of the judiciary committee of the senate, the chairman of the state and local government committee of the senate, and the majority leader of the senate;

(7) The chairman of the criminal justice committee of the house of representatives, the chairman of the state government committee of the house of representatives, and the majority leader of the house of representatives;

(8) One (1) lawyer, who is a member of the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, to be appointed the association;

(9) One (1) representative from the public defender's conference, to be appointed jointly by the speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives;

(10) One (1) representative from the Tennessee Consultation on Criminal Justice;

(11) One (1) representative from the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association;

(12) One (1) representative from the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police;

(13) The director of the Tennessee bureau of investigation, or the director's designee;

(14) The Tennessee attorney general, or the attorney general's designee;

(15) The director of the Tennessee office of the post-conviction defender; and

(16) The executive director of the Tennessee State Employees Association, or the executive director's designee.

41-52-103.

(a) The members shall serve until the council ceases to exist in accordance with § 41-52-104.

(b) A vacancy occurring on the council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

41-52-104.

(a)

(1) Eleven (11) members of the council shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of meeting and conducting business.

(2) No action of the council shall be valid unless authorized by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the council.

(b) The council shall meet at least nine (9) times, with the same number of meetings to be held in each of the three (3) grand divisions of the state beginning May 1, 2014.

(c) A chairperson shall be selected by a majority vote of the members of the council and shall serve at the pleasure of the council.

(d) All departments and agencies of the state, including the department of correction and state board of parole, shall, upon request of the council, provide

requested services, information, and technical support, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary.

(e) Members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services from public funds.

(f) Upon a majority vote of those present and voting, private donations may be used to pay for any expenses to further the purposes of the council.

(g) The council shall prepare a report on the activities of the council, along with its findings and recommendations for legislation, and transmit a copy of such report to the governor, speaker of the senate, speaker of the house of representatives, and chief justice of the state supreme court on or before May 1, 2015.

(h) The Tennessee criminal justice reform council shall cease to exist on May 1, 2015.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of appointing members to the council, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect May 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.