



Alabama Department of Corrections

Criminal Justice Reform Implementation

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Alabama Department of Corrections

**In May 2015, Senate Bill (SB) 67 Was
Passed To Reduce Recidivism,
Increase Public Safety, And Lower
Prison Costs.**



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Criminal Justice Reform Implementation Consist of Numerous Partners in the Criminal Justice Community

- Circuit Clerks
- Community Corrections
- Corrections
- County Commissions
- County Jails
- Courts
- District Attorneys
- Pardons and Paroles
- Sentencing Commission
- Sheriffs



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Recidivism can be reduced by strengthening community-based supervision and treatment through the use of **evidence-based practices**.



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Enhanced **Public Safety and lower **Prison Costs** will be realized through the incorporation of the provision of SB 67 that strengthens community supervision and diverts some non-violent offenders from prison.**



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Implementation

- The *Alabama Department of Corrections, Board of Pardons and Parole*, and county community corrections programs have adopted a common **validated risk and needs assessment** system that determines an offender's level of supervision based on the risk of recidivating and addresses the offender's criminogenic needs.



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Implementation

- The *Board of Pardons and Parole*, along with local community corrections programs are transforming **Community Supervision** through the use of evidenced based practices:
 - Offenders are supervised based on risk levels indicated in the **validated risk and needs assessment**.
 - Offenders are screened in the first 10-days for substance abuse or mental health needs.
 - Case plans address criminogenic needs.



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Implementation

- Officer supervision techniques have shifted to a cognitive-behavioral technique such as moral reconnection therapy or motivational interviewing.
- Officer training in evidence-based practices are ongoing to include enhanced case planning, core correctional practices, and continuing education on conducting risk and needs assessments.
- The *Alabama Department of Corrections* has revised the *Minimum Standards for Community Punishment And Community Corrections Programs* which incorporates these evidence-based practices mandated by SB 67.



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Implementation

- To hold offenders accountable for probation or parole technical violations the practice of “**swift and certain**” sanctions are used by the Courts and *Board of Pardons and Parole*.
 - “**DIPS**” are short 2-3 day jail stays order by Probation/Parole Officer.
 - “**Dunks**” up to 45 day confinement in prison can be ordered by the sentencing judge or the parole board.



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Implementation

- To facilitate the “DUNKS” the *Department of Corrections*, in cooperation with the *Alabama Sheriffs’ Association*, *Association of County Commission*, and the *Board of Pardons and Parole*, has developed a process to transfer offenders from county jails to the *Department of Corrections*.



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Implementation

- In the case of a **probationer**, once the court imposes a “DUNK”, it has 5-business days to submit the order to the circuit clerk, who has 5-business days to provide the *Department of Corrections with* a transcript.
- Upon receipt of a transcript the *Department of Corrections* will coordinate the transportation of the offender with the appropriate county jail within 5-business days.



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Implementation

- In the case of a **parolee**, once the parole board has imposed a “Dunk”, it has 5-business days to submit the order to the *Department of Corrections*.
- Upon receipt of the order, the *Department of Corrections* will coordinate the transportation of the offender with the appropriate county jail within 5-business days.



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Implementation

- The Courts have ordered “DUNKS” on 276 probationers—with the average stay being 35-days.
- The Parole Board has ordered “DUNKS” on 108 parolees—with the average stay being 45-days.



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Projected Impact—*Four Target Areas*

| Project Savings in Prison Beds | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| End of Year | Class—D Diversions | Capped Prison Sanctions | Mandatory Supervision Offenders | Split Sentence Class C | Total Annual Savings |
| 2016 | -286 | -242 | 0 | 0 | -528 |
| 2017 | -1,444 | -511 | 0 | -54 | -2,010 |
| 2018 | -1,325 | -552 | -252 | -1,020 | -3,149 |
| 2019 | -1,333 | -570 | -588 | -1,224 | -3,716 |
| 2020 | -1,340 | -595 | -924 | -1,248 | -4,108 |
| 2021 | -1,353 | -621 | -1,000 | -1,269 | -4,243 |



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