

MISSOURI YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT CHAMBER: A	BILL # 305
Authors: Henry Ledbetter	COMMITTEE 3
Delegation: St. Louis University High School	

An act to make all persons convicted of drug related crimes be admitted to a rehabilitation center instead of a prison.

SUMMARY

This bill will make it so people who are convicted of non-violent drug related crimes get sent to a rehabilitation center instead of prison. It cost's approximately the same amount to send someone to rehab as it does to send someone to prison and this will lower the amount of repeat offenders. Also this bill will make people actually able to overcome their addiction when they are caught instead of it just getting worse in prison.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF MISSOURI

To amend section 579 and add thereto a section known as 579.190 which reads as follows: Any persons found guilty of using illicit drugs or controlled substances illegally for their first offense shall be admitted into a 30-day in-patient rehabilitation program or a 90-day outpatient treatment depending on their ASAM evaluation. If a person is found to be purposefully missing rehab appointments or not participating at meetings they will be given the minimum prison sentence for their crime.

DEFINITIONS / KEY ISSUES

1. Rehabilitation center- An establishment that employs licensed therapists and has the primary goal of helping individuals quit their addictions.
2. Inpatient rehabilitation program- A program where the patient stays at the rehabilitation center
3. Outpatient rehabilitation program- a program where the patient receives counseling done by a licensed therapist on a regular basis but stays at home.
4. ASAM evaluation- an evaluation done by the rehabilitation center based on the criteria of the American Society of Addiction medicine. Scored on a scale of 0-4 with zero being in need of no care and 4 needing intensive inpatient rehabilitation.
5. Intensive rehabilitation- The normal programs done at a rehabilitation center but with increased levels of therapy and medication.

MAIN BODY OF BILL

America has a massive problem with incarceration. In fact, we are number one in the world for the number of incarcerated citizens per capita.

People who are incarcerated for non-violent drug related crimes have a statistically higher risk of being re-incarcerated for the same crime after being let out.

There is a difference between people from low income neighborhoods being incarcerated for drug related crimes and people from high income neighborhoods that can't be overlooked. Giving people prison time is just making sure that they stay addicted to substances and have a much shorter and lower quality of life.