

# **HOUSE OKS TWO GOP CRIME BILLS CRACKDOWN: MEASURES WOULD JAIL CRIMINALS LONGER, DEPORT OTHERS ON RELEASE.**

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## **Body**

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With strong bipartisan support, the House on Friday passed two more bills in the Republicans' anti-crime package that supporters said would keep criminals from going free.

One bill, approved 265-156, would provide extra money for states to build prisons on the condition that they make inmates serve longer terms.

The other, passed 380-20, would crack down on illegal immigrants who commit crimes, including deporting them promptly once they are released.

The overwhelming votes sent the two bills to the Senate and cleared the way for House action next week on the sixth and final chapter of the GOP revision -- \$10 billion in crime-fighting block grants that would wipe out funds now dedicated to police and prevention programs.

While the first five bills have passed with relatively strong bipartisan support, both Republicans and Democrats are preparing for a battle over the lump-sum payments, which might include a skirmish over protection of abortion clinics by law enforcement agencies.

The prisons bill passed Friday would provide \$10.5 billion for new construction, roughly \$2.5 billion more than last year's bill, but contingent upon states' keeping prisoners behind bars for 85 percent of their sentences, far longer than currently.

The bill also would provide \$650 million a year for the federal government to reimburse certain states for the costs of incarcerating criminal illegal immigrants. California has 18,000 illegal immigrants in its prison system, costing \$375 million a year.

Some of the provisions of the bill are intended to make life more unpleasant for criminals in federal prisons. Prisoners would be denied weight-lifting equipment and anything else that increases their fighting ability. And they would be denied X-rated movies, cable television, computers, musical instruments and even miniature golf.

GOP sponsors said the prisons bill would give states financial incentives to lock up violent offenders longer. They currently serve an average of about 40 percent of their sentences, according to the House Judiciary Committee. What Republicans dub "truth in sentencing" would require states to more than double the actual time served, but officials would have three years to implement the policy.

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The **Criminal** Alien **Deportation bill** passed Friday would expand the list of felonies punishable by **deportation** to include bribery, transporting people for prostitution, and counterfeiting or forging immigration documents.

In addition, the **bill** would raise penalties for smuggling immigrants into the United States, authorize the seizure of assets and allow the use of wiretaps in investigating smugglers.

Earlier this week, the **House** passed **GOP bills** that mandate restitution be ordered in federal cases, allow some warrantless searches in federal trials and impose time limits on death-row appeals.

## Classification

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