



# Same time for the same crime?

**“Truth in sentencing” incarcerates some far longer than others for the same convictions.**

## Problem

In 1998, Illinois passed a “truth in sentencing” law that limits the time a person can earn off their prison sentence. Before 1998, people in prison could earn as much as 50% of time off their sentences through good behavior and participation in programs. This was commonly called “good time.”

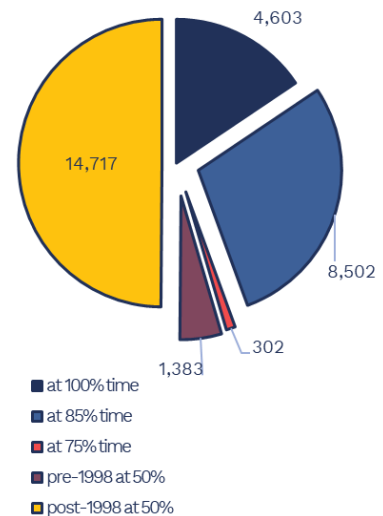
**“Good time” incentivizes people to participate in restorative programming, which is one of the safest ways to reduce the prison population and prepare people to return home.**

Today half of the people in IDOC can earn 50% off of their sentences. The others are required to serve 75, 85, or 100% of their sentences.

The number of people who have access to “good time” has gone down since Illinois enacted “truth in sentencing” in 1998.

**Number of People in IDOC 12/22**

Total=29,507



Current	Proposed
Most of those who are serving 100%	85%
85%	70%
75%	60%
LWOP, Terrorism at 100%	100%

## Solution

**HB 3901 would allow people sentenced under “truth in sentencing” to earn more “good time.”**

Eligible people could earn up to 15% more time off of their sentences from what they currently can earn.

**Ways to Earn Good Time**

reentry & other programs

service to institution, community, or state

compliance with rules & regulations