Exhibit 1
AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERT E. MCGUIRE

I, Robert E. McGuire, declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

1.) My name is Robert Elliott McGuire, I am over the age of eighteen (18) and am competent to testify about the matters contained in this affidavit.

2.) I am currently licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee and have been since 2001. My Board of Professional Responsibility number is 021594.

3.) I was an Assistant District Attorney General for the 20th Judicial District (Nashville-Davidson County) from 2001 to 2014.

4.) During my tenure as an Assistant District Attorney General, I assisted another prosecutor with the prosecution of Calvin Bryant for the sale and possession of narcotics in a Drug Free School Zone.

5.) As I recall, Mr. Bryant was arrested on that indictment in May of 2008, did not make bond and remained in custody pending trial.

6.) I do not recall if Mr. Bryant was made a plea agreement offer before the trial. As I was not the primary prosecutor on that case, I would not have been the prosecutor to make a plea agreement offer on the case.

7.) As I recall, Mr. Bryant was convicted of those offenses after a jury trial in February of 2009. I participated in representing the State of Tennessee at that trial.
8.) In the spring of 2009, Mr. Bryant was subsequently sentenced to 17 years in prison at 100% with the percentage of service being mandatory and fixed by the fact that he was convicted of a narcotics offense while in a Drug Free School Zone.

9.) At this time, I believe that Mr. Bryant has been in continuous confinement for over nine years (from May of 2008 to present) with over eight years of that incarceration coming post-conviction.

10.) According to the latest information available from the Tennessee Department of Corrections Mr. Bryant’s sentence is scheduled to conclude on May 23, 2023, a little less than six years from the date of the signing affidavit.

11.) I fail to see how an additional six years of incarceration will improve Mr. Bryant’s amenability to correction or would be required to maintain public safety.

12.) I additionally fail to see how his release at a time earlier than 2023 – and after over nine years of incarceration – will deprecate the seriousness of the offenses for which he was convicted or significantly imperil the public safety.

13.) I am no longer a prosecutor and I cannot speak for the Office of the District Attorney General for the 20th Judicial District, therefore I only speak for myself. But as a prosecuting attorney for Mr. Bryant I would personally not oppose a clemency or early release petition by him given the long term of incarceration he has already served and the non-violent nature of the offenses for which he was convicted.
FURTHER THIS AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

ROBERT E. MCGUIRE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  )
COUNTY OF DAVIDSON  )

I, Robert E. McGuire, after first being duly sworn according to the law, make oath and state that I am the Affiant in the foregoing Affidavit; that I have read my statements contained therein, which are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief; and which are not made out of levity or collusion with the Respondent, but out of sincerity and truth for the causes alleged in the pleading.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the ___ day of August, 2017

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: 10-7-19
Exhibit 2
October 17, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend the release of Calvin Bryant, Jr. Mr. Bryant is a young man who made a mistake at a young age and has more than paid for that mistake.

Mr. Bryant is a non-violent offender who was sentenced to 17 years in prison for a drug crime. He has served nearly 10 years of that sentence. Further incarceration benefits no one.

Mr. Bryant had and continues to have a bright future ahead. Prior to his incarceration, Mr. Bryant was a gifted athlete who generously donated his time to the youth and his community. If released, I will personally make every effort to see that Mr. Bryant is successfully re-acclimated into the community. I recommend his release without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Brenda Gilmore
State Representative 54th District

[Signature]

[Notary Seal]
Exhibit 3
To Whom It May Concern,

Calvin Bryant has been one of my closest friends since we were 8 years old. As young kids we’ve always held each other accountable through education, sports and community. Since Calvin’s incarceration we have spoken many times about his plans to become a positive example for kids within the Nashville Community. Upon his release I am committed to providing a steady job of employment that will assist him with his vision of becoming a positive influence for our city. At Slim + Husky’s we believe in second chances for those that have served jail time. Our company will help provide Calvin with a skill set that he can use for years to come by helping him build a great life for him and his family. I also look forward to personally assisting my friend in his development through communication and accountability as we’ve done as kids.

Best Regards,

[Signature]

Clinton Gray III
President of Slim + Husky’s Pizza Beeria
615.500.1048

State of: Tennessee County of: Davidson
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of October, 2017.
By Clinton Gray Personally known OR produced identification □

Shannon Cohen
Notary Public (Print)
Shannon Cohen
Notary Public (Signature)
My Commission Expires: 1/6/2020
Exhibit 4
September 28, 2017

To whom it may concern:

This letter is written on behalf of Calvin Eugene Bryant, Jr., who is currently serving a fifteen (15) year sentence in the Tennessee Department of Correction for violating the Drug Free School Zone law. Calvin has been incarcerated since May, 2008. He was 22 years old at the time. His incarceration stems from a non-violent, first time drug offense.

Calvin was born in Nashville and grew up in the Edge Hill Public Housing Community. His parents grew up in the same housing community. As a child, Calvin played many sports, however, showed exceptional talent and ability in football. He attended Hillsboro Comprehensive High School where he played on the varsity football team all four (4) years. As a football player, Calvin made 3 state championship appearances. As football captain he led his team to victory in the State Championship. Calvin was heavily recruited by the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), University of Tennessee, University of Florida, University of Oklahoma, University of South Carolina, as well as other Colleges and Universities. Yahoo Sports reported that the Ole Miss 2003 recruiting class needed a fullback and Calvin Bryant may fill that spot. “Bryant has great size and speed to be an SEC fullback.” (Yahoo Sports)

At the time of his arrest, Calvin Bryant, Jr. was an exemplary employee for Coca-Cola and a full-time student at Tennessee State University. Additionally, he volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. While incarcerated, Calvin’s father passed away from Congestive Heart Failure (CHF). His mother currently suffers from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and CHF. Calvin is an only son. Upon his release he plans to start a non-profit program geared toward preventing youth from joining gangs.

We fully and unequivocally support the release of Calvin Eugene Bryant, Jr. He has more than paid his debt for this non-violent first time drug offense. Any relief from his extremely long sentence would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

LUDYEN W. WALLACE, Nashville NAACP President

Sworn before me this 28th day of Sept 2017

[Signature]

STATE OF TENNESSEE
NOTARY PUBLIC
DINSMORE COUNTY
MCCONNELL NOTARY 2013
Exhibit 5
9/20/17

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my full support for the release of Calvin Bryant. Prior to his incarceration Mr. Bryant spent countless hours volunteering with youth sports. His football career was impeccable and he gave back to the community. It is now the desire of the community to give back to Mr. Bryant and assist with his release in any way possible. Mr. Bryant is a kind, respectful, and thoughtful young man. He is an asset to his community. He has more than paid for any past mistakes and I respectfully request that he be released.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Brown,
TN State NAACP Labor & Industry Chair
Community Organizer

[Signature]

Notary Public
Exhibit 6
Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this letter on behalf of Calvin Bryant whom I’ve known more than half of my life. My name is Chenika Miller Calvin has been an incorruptible person since I have known him. Calvin is not only my childhood friend he is my best friend and companion. It saddens me to see him away from his family and friends for so long. He grew up in a 2 parent household which most kids coming from where he came from didn’t have. His parents raised him well. He was a good kid growing up and that never changed. They taught him to be respectful and he always used his manners. Everyone makes mistakes and yes he made a mistake that I know he has learned from. He has lost his father since he’s been incarcerated. His mother has a chronic illness and he really loves and cherish his mother with all his heart. I know he can’t bring back all the years he has lost but he can make up for them. He always says he wishes he could just be able to care for his mom. Being incarcerated with a sick mother and losing his father has taught him to never take life for granted. Calvin is such a positive person still through all he has been through he is altruistic and caring. Calvin has been a role model to so many people through football and just being the friendly generous person he is. I admire how compassionate he is. Calvin is a big man because he has a big loving heart of gold. Whenever we talk Calvin always tells me he can’t wait to be a free man. He wants to be a positive role model to the youth and teach them to stay on the right path. I know what he done wasn’t right but he has lost 9 years of his life already and counting which is unjustified. I am all for people being punished but his punishment for a nonviolent offense the first time is inequitable.

Chenika Miller

[Signature]

[Notary Stamp]

F. Howard 8-7-17
To Whom This May Concern:

My name is Janice Blackburn and I am writing to you on behalf of my nephew Calvin Bryant Jr. As you may know I have known Calvin all of his life and has considered him more of a son than a nephew. Since the day that he was born he has always been a light to our family. He is kind, loving, supportive, protective, and a very active and loved member of our community. Although incarcerated at a very young age, Calvin had already began to be what many considered a mentor and has many plans of continuing youth and community outreach upon release. His passion is to reach many people both young and old by encouragement, testimony, and the support that lacks in the neighborhood of which he grew. An uncle and great uncle of two very young boys, Calvin seeks to be a part of their growth serving as not only an uncle but a father figure as well. He seeks to instill integrity, the importance of education, his love for sports, family, and many other important aspects needed to ensure that they become influential and respectful members of society. We as a family, Calvin included, believe in the justice system, and are in no way disregarding the wrong in which he participated, however we do feel that he has served his time in relation to the crime. As a man who has no prior convictions before the one in question, I strongly believe that he deserves a second chance to prove himself an obedient and respected member of society. If given the opportunity for early release I, myself, as well Calvin and many other members, both family and friends, vow to keep him productive and out of trouble by using what he has learned during this experience to promote positivity throughout the great city of Nashville and beyond.

Thank You,

Janice Blackburn

(615)-424-7177
Exhibit 8
Joy S. Kimbrough  
Attorney at Law  
306 Gay Street, Suite 102  
Nashville, TN 37201

I am writing this letter of recommendations for Calvin Bryant release.

I've known Calvin since birth. He grew up with my kids and attended the same schools throughout the years. Regardless of his current situation, Calvin has always been and still is a positive person. True he's made mistakes along the way and so have I and everyone else. However, if he's given another chance, I can truly say and mean it without any hesitation that Calvin will not be coming back to that facility or any other facility. He's had a pretty good life and well respected. He had been working with young kids, taking care of family as well as friends before his incarnation. While being incarcerated he been in programs to even further his growth.

If I or anyone else needed anything he would see to it getting done.

Thanking you in advance,  

Kim D. Doss  
2161 Rock City Street  
Nashville, TN 37216  
(615) 596-0917
Exhibit 9
To whom it may concern,

I have known Calvin Bryant, Jr since he was a child. He was raised to be an upstanding person and I truly feel that he displays these traits. He unfortunately made a mistake that landed him in this position, but I know he has learned from this situation. He is looking forward to helping others learn how to avoid situations like his and teach them how to follow the right path. I think Calvin Bryant, Jr. will be able to take this negative and turn it into a beautiful positive and help change lives of many of our youth who are facing some of the same situations. He is the upstanding person his parents raised him to be.

Sincerely,

Christal Williams

615-977-6939 cell phone
Exhibit 10
To Whom It May Concern:

My name is LaShana Bryant and I am writing this letter on behalf of my brother Mr. Calvin Bryant, Jr. Calvin has been incarcerated since May 16, 2008 and it has affected our family in a major way. Our father passed away eleven months after he was incarcerated and our mother has developed several health issues. Calvin is not perfect, but he is a great man that has definitely grown and matured over the years. I pray that he is allowed a second chance to be released so that our family will be able to put this behind us and move forward. If he was granted the opportunity to come home, his support system would greatly help him adjust to society and he will become a great impact on our family as well as the youth. I pray that this letter is taken under consideration and our family will be able to be complete once more.

Sincerely,

LaShana Bryant

(615)-485-5200
To whom it may concern,

Greetings, my name is Mason Caples, I am a Junior in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Tennessee State University. I have lived in Edgehill with Calvin Bryant since the fourth grade. He has always had a smile on his face and brought a smile to the community. To our community he is more than a great football player he is a member of our community. I can remember him holding a car wash to attain funds to pay an elderly woman’s rent. To me personally he has been a voice of reason. I remember him stopping me from poorly reacting to a horrible situation in side of our neighborhood. I am grateful to know Calvin because he genuinely cares about others. I have sat threw his trial and I have heard the facts of the case. Calvin’s graciousness was used against him. Since then, Calvin has grown as a man. He has learned the hard way not to risk his freedom to help anyone, no matter how much they beg. Calvin is one of the most trusting people that I have known. Calvin’s family has also been a cornerstone in the Edgehill community. I remember many nights that his Mother Ann Bryant and his late Father whom we lovingly called “Cootie” invited me and many of the other teenagers in the neighborhood to come into their home and share the loving warmth of their family’s hospitality. They instilled manners in many teens who had either lost or never taught to have manners. The Bryant family is a forgiving and god-fearing family. Calvin may have made a few mistakes in life, but I have complete faith that once he is released that he will be a rehabilitated member of society. The community poured our love and support for Calvin during the loss of his father during his incarceration. Calvin’s sister Lashana Bryant has been caring for their mother since her health has declined. She has taken multiple jobs to help care for her and her mother in the absents of Calvin. She is an amazing young woman. Lashana is now with
child and Calvin is now an uncle. Calvin is ready to reunite with his family and fill his much-needed role in his family. Calvin deserves a chance to prove that he has been rehabilitated. He has a family, a community, and will have a new niece or nephew that will catalyze Calvin to stay on the right path in life. Calvin single act of compassion set my life on a new path. To me, this letter possesses the same possibility for him. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter regardless of your decision.

Humbly,

Mary A. Apel

[Signature]

Cardelia G. Bender

[Signature]

Ex.P. 10-7-2019
Exhibit 12
To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a character reference for Mr. Calvin Bryant Jr., which of whom I’ve known my entire life.

Growing up the only child of my mother’s, Calvin and his siblings served as a brother and sisters to me, although we were actually cousins. As the children of two sisters living directly next door to each other we spent an extensive amount of time together. Four years older than I, he took on the role of a protective big brother, who also taught me a lot. To me he was the coolest guy around because he showed patients toward me that even his little sister at times could not. Because of this, I spent more time with him becoming somewhat of a tomboy, wanting to do everything that he did and liking everything that he liked. From him I got my love for sports, both playing and watching, music, and so much more. Due to his personality, he has always been a person that many people have gravitated to. In a neighborhood full of underprivileged kids, he has always been the one that people turned to for help and guidance. Over the course of many years, he has had many friends stay with him due to their uneasy living situations and has also been the voice of reason in many seemingly out of control situations. As one who has always been big on education, he has actively encouraged many kids of our neighborhood to finish school also giving away money as a stipend for good grades. Outside of his present trouble, the only real trouble he’s ever been in, he has worked extremely hard not to become a statistic of his neighborhood by not having an extensive criminal record in neither juvenile, jail, nor prison. As a young man living a free life at twenty-two, the age he was when taken from his family, his main focus was to find a school that believed in his talent and allow him to explore his true calling which was football, the security of his family, and of course being a help to others. This letter is not written in order to make others forget the wrong that he has done and has also owned up to, but, it is written in hopes that someone will see this and no that people, being human make mistakes. The greatest part of
a mistake I believe is learning from it and being given the opportunity to right your wrongs, especially when the wrong that is committed is not one of reoccurring acts.

In my opinion I believe that he has learned so much from this previous experience and is not one who constantly has to bump his head before he believes the term that, “fat meat is indeed greasy”. Over the term of his absence he has grown so much both spiritually and mentally. After losing his father while incarcerated, his main focus is his mother’s health and the wellbeing of his immediate family. Without him and his father we struggle on the day to day basis as a small family of women, without the guidance, security, and protection that the only men we truly trust bring into our lives. I, as well as the ladies of my family, fully understand that justice must be served, but the time that he received due to his offenses is somewhat hard to believe. In 2012, my father’s sons another man that I loved so dearly was murdered. Upon his death his murderer received 25 years, only seven years more than Calvin and I find this to be unfair due to the fact that he killed no one. He simply made a mistake as many young people do and if given the opportunity of a second chance i truely believe that it wont happen again.

Thanks for your time,

Allencia Blackburn

STATE:  IN
COUNTY: DAVIDSON
NOTARY: DAVID GARRAMONE
EXPIRES: 5/5/2020

DAVID GARRAMONE
STATE OF TENNESSEE
NOTARY PUBLIC
DAVIDSON COUNTY
My Commission Expires May 5, 2020
Exhibit 13
Friday, August 04, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Annetta Bryant and I am writing this letter on behalf of my only son Calvin Bryant, Jr. He has been locked up for a total of 9 years (111 months) and it is still hard to adjust without him. Since he has been incarcerated, I have developed diabetes, congestive heart failure, COPD, emphysema, bronchitis, and I'm oxygen dependent.

My son is a very good person with a good personality and he stays in good spirits. I pray every single day that I am able to see him be released. I feel like he has served his debt to society and he deserves a second chance to prove to himself as well as society that he is a good individual. I pray that everything goes well and I'm able to have my son home with me again.

Sincerely,

Annetta Bryant

(615)-474-3332
Exhibit 14
My name is Miesha Bryant and I'm writing this letter on behalf of Calvin Bryant. Calvin has been such a big part of my kids' life since the loss of their father. He has mentored, helped with homework and consoled my kids over phone calls and letters for about 2 years now. They really depend on him for support and he has become such a positive influence in their lives. As my son grows in age I really wish Calvin could be present to help me to raise him to become a man and keep him in sports. Calvin is such a blessing to us. He gave my kids something that as a parent I could not and that's a father figure and for that my kids and I are forever grateful. And I know he could save many more kids in our community just by the changes he has made in his life. Everything about Calvin is positive and his desire to help the community is amazing. This is a person that has learned from their mistakes and has changed not just for himself but for his family, the youth, and community.

Sincerely,
Miesha Bryant
miesha.bryant@vanderbilt.edu

August 05, 2017

County of Davidson
State of Tennessee

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 7 day of August 2017

Jessica Burgy
Signature of Notary Public

My commission expires 8 March 2021.
Exhibit 15
Honorable Judge Dozier,

I write to you today with great pride on behalf of Calvin Bryant. I have known Calvin for twenty years and found him to be a courageous man. Growing up with Calvin through grade school and high school I have found him to be compassionate, humble and selfless. He has always been transparent through his hardships and adversities and eager to put a smile on someone else’s face despite how he may be feeling at that moment.

Calvin believes in supporting his community. He has helped single mothers with school supplies, school clothes and shoes, and paid dues for children to play football. I am able to speak on this because I am a single mother who has been blessed by his gratitude. When I have felt at my worse he has truly been a friend providing a shoulder to cry on, being a listener and never judging me. Calvin has also been a mentor to my boys. If you were to speak to my children they would tell you that Calvin is a superhero. He has been influential in my children’s life through newspapers clippings from his football years, and being the role model that his for them. It is Calvin who has allowed them to dream beyond the now and look to their future. They are adamant about attending Hillsboro High school and going to Tennessee State University to play football. If you recall the phrase “I wanna be like Mike”, my children chant “I wanna be like Calvin”. My children’s lives are not the first for him to touch. I can recall from high school, our classmate Clay had Down Syndrome and Calvin treated him as his equal. When you saw Clay you saw Calvin. Calvin has never been one to pick and choose. He has always treated his peers with respect no matter what background, nationality, disability, or sexual preference.

Calvin is and has always been a leader. He always encourages his peers and anyone around him to do the right thing. He leads with great passion, confidence, patience and integrity. He instills confidence and hope in our youth by being there for them meeting them on their level, showing empathy, guiding them, and being an exemplary father figure. I speak of a man with great dignity who loves the city of Nashville. As we see daily the rise in youth violence in Nashville, releasing Calvin will allow him to give back to his community and offer our young man an opportunity to engage in dialogue and focus on their academics instead of the streets. Our community needs someone who is compassionate about them and who can honestly speak about their road and point them into a different direction. His faithful leadership will breed future leaders and the community will be able to reap the rewards of successful citizens.

I am honored to call Calvin Bryant my friend. He is the epitome of a leader and has had an opportunity to reflect on himself. He is a man of his word and if given the chance can assist in changing the lives of our children’s and their future. If needed, you may contact me via telephone (615) 364-6587 or email chowse39@gmail.com. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Ms. Erica Howse

[Signature]
Exhibit 16
Calvin Bryant Jr. is a good friend of mine, we have been friends for some time now. He has been a good loyal friend since 2002. A friend that has never change on me. Nowadays that means alot, true friendship and loyalty is rare. The first time I met his mother (Ms. Ann), she invited me into her home and asked if I wanted something to eat. Ms. Ann always cooked and there was always a family setting and a care for the community attitude. This care for the community setting started with Ms. Ann so it's only right for Calvin to inherit the same attitude.

Fridge is another name for Calvin Bryant Jr. He got the name Fridge because is a big guy and he played American's favorite team sport, football. He was apart of a great team that won 2 State Championship during his high school years. Anyone who has played sports has heard the saying "There's no I in team". He was a star player, but you still need your team. They worked together to accomplish great things as a Team!
A lot of great words; family, community, team to have in someone's vocabulary when speaking about one's character. My friend Calvin would like a second chance at life, where he can help kids of the community. If my friend says he's going to get out and start a non-profit program for kids in the community, then I believe him! He has all the great traits instilled consciously and subconsciously. Please Free my friend Calvin "Fridge!"

Bryant Jr.

Written By Steve Beach
Team Fridge!
Exhibit 17
MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
From: Isaac Kimes, Esq., Research Analyst
Re: Various Research Items on Drug-Free School Zone Law (No Prior Felony Offense; Comparative Sentencing Analysis; Costs; and Raw Data)
Date: March 22, 2017

Our office has worked with the Department of Corrections to compile detailed information about those incarcerated for drug-free school zone violation and that have no prior felony offense. As you will see below, one hundred and forty-six offenders currently incarcerated for violating the drug-free school zone law have no prior felony convictions.

SUMMARY INFORMATION FOR OFFENDERS WITH NO PRIOR FELONY OFFENSE

- Total: There are 146 offenders out of a total incarcerated population of 436, with 0 prior felony offenses.
- Non-violent offenders: 137 out of 146 (94%) did not commit a violent offense along with the drug-free school zone offense
- Average sentence: 9 years
- Longest sentence: 30 years
- Average age at time of offense: 32 years old
- Youngest at time of offense: 16 years old (Note: This non-violent offender is sentenced to 8 years for cocaine distribution, less than half a gram. He had 0 prior felonies.).
COMPARITIVE SENTENCING ANALYSIS (PART I)

Rape
• Unlawful sexual penetration of a victim by the defendant
• Class B Felony, Sentencing Range of 8-12 years (if Range I offender)
• Sentence: 7 years (8 years (min. range) at 85%)

Aggravated Robbery
• Robbery with a weapon or where victim suffers serious bodily injury
• Class B Felony, Sentencing Range of 8-12 years (if Range I offender)
• Sentence: 7 years (8 years (min. range) at 85%)

Drug-Free School Zone Offense Example II
• Possession of less than 0.5 grams of cocaine with intent to sell within 1000 feet of a school
• Class C Felony enhanced to Class B, Sentencing Range of 8-12 years (if Range I offender)
• Sentence: 8 years (8 years (min. range) at 100%)

Aggravated Vehicular Homicide
• Drunk driver with blood alcohol content over 2.0 kills someone
• Class A Felony, Sentencing Range of 15-25 years (if Range I offender)
• Sentence: 11 years (25 years (max range) at 45%)

Attempted First Degree Murder Where Serious Bodily Injury Occurs
• Attempted murder with intent and the victim suffers serious bodily injury but does not die
• Class A Felony, Sentencing Range of 15-25 years (if Range I offender)
• Sentence: 11 years (15 years (min. range) at 75%)

Second Degree Murder
• Knowing killing of another
• Class A Felony, Sentencing Range of 15-25 years (if Range I offender)
• Sentence: 13 years (15 years (min. range) at 85%)

Drug-Free School Zone Offense Example I
• Possession of 0.5 grams of meth with intent to sell within 1000 feet of a school
• Class B Felony enhanced to Class A, Sentencing Range of 15-25 years (if Range I offender)
• Sentence: 15 years (15 years (min. range) at 100%)

CAPITOL HILL OFFICE
318 War Memorial Building, Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 741-1767; FAX (615) 253-0357
### COMPARITIVE SENTENCING ANALYSIS (PART II)

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COSTS

Drug-Free School Zone Taxpayer Expenditures

Average operating cost per offender per day for calendar year 2017 $68.75
Average operating cost per offender per year $25,093.75
Cost per year to incarcerate first-time felony drug-free school zone offenders $3,663,687
Cost per year to incarcerate non-violent drug-free school zone offenders (421) $10,564,468
Cost per year to incarcerate all drug-free school zone offenders (436) $10,940,875
Total years sentenced for first-time felony drug-free school zone offenses 1,326
Total cost to incarcerate first-time felony offenders incarcerated pursuant to drug-free school zone $33,274,312
Total years sentenced for non-violent drug-free school zone offenses 4,672
Total cost to incarcerate non-violent drug-free school zone offenses $117,238,000
Total years sentenced for drug-free school zone sentences 4,832
Total cost to incarcerate drug-free school zone sentences $121,253,000
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Drug-Free School Zone Offenders
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Drug-Free School Zone Offenders

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- **Total: 146**

- **Longest sentence:** 30 years
- **Average sentence:** 9 years (White: 80%, Black: 17.5%)
- **Hispanic: 5%**

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- **Total: 9**

- **Oldest at time of offense:** 74 years
- **Average age at time of offense:** 32 years
Exhibit 18
Why States are Taking a Fresh Look at Drug-Free Zones

September 15, 2016 By Teresa Wiltz

Drug-free zones are falling out of favor in some states that question their effectiveness, even as the opioid epidemic rages on. Above, a drug-free zone sign outside a school in Oklahoma.

In the late 1980s, every state and the District of Columbia had laws that imposed harsh penalties on drug offenses committed near schools.
The idea behind the "drug-free school zones" was to deter dealers at the height of a national crack cocaine epidemic from peddling drugs to children where they could be found most days.

Now those laws are undergoing new scrutiny, as states revisit long sentences for drug crimes that have led to mass incarceration and as they face a new drug epidemic, this time opioid addiction.

Some states, including Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky and Utah, are reducing the size of the drug-free zones as they seek to rid their prisons of so many nonviolent drug offenders with long sentences and as research indicates the zones sometimes fail to steer dealers away from schools.

But other states, such as Arkansas, Hawaii and Texas, are expanding the zones in response to the opioid crisis. They’re adding playgrounds, parks and other areas where children play and imposing heavy penalties for people caught with drugs there, sometimes even for small amounts.

The seemingly contradictory directions states are taking on drug-free zones points to the practical and political difficulties states are having. They’re trying to deter drug abuse, while also seeking to avoid packing prisons with people who receive extended sentences, often with no chance for parole, for being caught with drugs near schools.

**Do School Zones Work?**

From the start, school zone laws have varied dramatically from state to state. Some are more stringent than others, sometimes to the point of being ineffective.

The laws are crafted to exact enhanced penalties for drug offenses within the zones. Some state laws establish distinct crimes with their own drug-free-zone penalties. They are added on top of the penalties for the original crime, in effect charging the offender twice for the same crime.

Arkansas, for example, has one of the nation’s most stringent laws, according to the Sentencing Project, a research and advocacy organization.

Drug-free zones there include not only schools, including colleges and universities as well as school bus stops, but also public parks and skating rinks, YMCAs and community centers, public housing and treatment centers, and day care centers and churches.

Offenders convicted of possession, delivery, manufacture and sale of drugs within a zone are sentenced to an additional 10 years in prison with no chance of parole.

In nine states, Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Michigan and Oklahoma, simple possession in a school zone can get an offender more time.
In Alabama, drug-free school zones, which include colleges and housing projects, extend 15,460 feet, roughly three miles — much more than in other states.

In some states, drug-free zones cover nearly an entire city.

Take Connecticut, where the drug-free zone extends 1,500 feet from the perimeter of school property and includes day care centers and public housing.

A 2014 study by the Prison Policy Initiative, a nonpartisan research and advocacy group, found that 92 percent of the 148,000 or so residents of Bridgeport lived in a drug-free school zone. Meanwhile, in the small town of Bridgewater, just 8 percent of its 1,700 residents lived in a drug-free school zone.

“You’re increasing the penalties for crime for an entire city,” said Aleks Kajstura, the author of the study. “You’re no longer steering people away from these specially protected zones. There’s nowhere for them to go.”

Research in Massachusetts indicates that when the zones are so extensive they aren’t effective in moving drugs away from children and can have unintended consequences, such as targeting minorities in densely packed urban neighborhoods.

Drug dealers tend to do business close to home and often live within these zones, according to the study, co-authored by Massachusetts Democratic state Sen. Will Brownsberger, a former narcotics prosecutor.

For example, in Tennessee, a small-time dealer in a city can end up doing much more prison time than, say, a meth manufacturer in the country, just on the basis of geography.

“Did the presence of school zones move drug dealing away from the schools? The answer to that question is clearly no,” Brownsberger said. “It’s not a deterrent. If every place is a school zone, then no place is a school zone.”

**Eight Years for a Sugar Packet**

The practical — and personal — effects the laws can have raise questions about their fairness.

For example, Rodgerick Griffin Jr. was standing on the porch of his ailing grandfather’s Chattanooga, Tennessee, house, in 2009, when the police rolled up. Relationships between residents and the police were none too friendly in this drug-infested neighborhood, so everyone on the street took off running. Griffin ran, too.
According to the police report, as Griffin ran, he threw down a baggie containing “a single, yellowish rock that appeared to be crack cocaine.” Another bag was found, totaling 2.6 grams of the substance, or less than 1/8 of an ounce, about the weight of a sugar packet. Police arrested him, and he was charged with intent to sell cocaine and possession with intent to deliver cocaine, a Class B felony.

But because the then-31-year-old was arrested within 1,000 feet of an elementary school or roughly three city blocks, he was charged with a Class A felony instead and faced an automatic sentence of 15 to 60 years with no opportunity for parole. Had he been arrested in another neighborhood, he would have faced eight years in prison and been eligible for parole in less than three.

Griffin, who had no previous arrest record, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to eight years. He’s been in prison ever since, and must serve the full eight years.

“This has devastated us all. Emotionally, mentally, financially,” said Griffin’s aunt, Mary Patterson, a 57-year-old hospital administrative assistant. Griffin, she said, was the primary caretaker of the family’s elder relatives.

Tennessee has one of the more restrictive drug-free zone laws in the country. It includes preschools, day care centers, public libraries, recreational centers and parks.

Drug offenders like Griffin are subject to mandatory minimum sentences, even if they are caught driving past a school zone, even if school is out for the summer and it’s the middle of the night, said Nashville District Attorney General Glenn Funk. Most of his jurisdiction is a drug-free zone.

Funk ran for office in 2014 promising not to prosecute the school zone laws unless a child was endangered; he said that with mandatory sentencing, judges don’t have the discretion to alter the sentences to fit the circumstances, such as awarding probation to a nonviolent, first-time offender.

This means that a first-time offender with as little as a half-gram of cocaine with intent to sell would be punished at the same felony level as someone charged with second degree murder, except the murder convict would eventually be eligible for parole, Funk said.

Someone caught with the same amount outside of the zone would face eight to 30 years and be eligible for probation, he said.

About 500 people in Tennessee are serving time for drug-free zone violations.
Tennessee’s Senate minority leader, Lee Harris, a Democrat from Memphis, estimates that thousands more are just like Griffin: When faced with a stiff prison sentence, they plead guilty rather than take their chances with a jury.

In February, Harris introduced a bill that would have eliminated additional penalties for arrests outside of the school year. A similar bill failed to pass in the House. Harris said he plans to try again next legislative session.

“Our pie-in-the-sky idea is this crime should be just like any other crime and you should be eligible for parole,” Harris said.

**Fear of Political Name-Calling**

Attempts to deal with school zone laws are often met with political or law enforcement resistance and contradictions in state capitolis, even as lawmakers debate how they can reduce the world’s highest rate of incarceration by easing long prison sentences for nonviolent drug offenders who don’t pose a threat to children.

The laws are even tougher to deal with when roughly 2.5 million Americans are addicted to opioids and more than 28,000 people died of overdoses of painkillers or heroin in 2014, the highest toll ever.

In addition to Tennessee, lawmakers in Connecticut and New Jersey this year considered scaling back drug-free zones. At the same time, New Hampshire and Washington state considered increasing penalties. None of the proposals were passed.

Even if drug-free zones don’t make for good policy, “it’s very hard to get legislators to make reforms in the criminal justice system when it comes to reducing sentences,” said Michael Freeman, Hennepin County (Minnesota) Attorney and president-elect of the National District Attorneys Association.

“I can just see the campaign literature,” he said. “Votes to reduce penalties in elementary schools.” “Soft on drugs.”

While some law enforcement officials, such as Nashville District Attorney Funk, say the laws should be scrapped, others, such as Terry Ashe of the Tennessee Sheriffs’ Association, disagree.

The laws send a clear signal to drug dealers and should be kept, Ashe said.

“If you sell drugs in school zones, you’re going to get an enhanced penalty,” he said. “I’m not so sure that throwing out the baby with the bathwater is the right thing to do.”
Exhibit 19
Davidson County Grand Jury
Final Report

October Term 2014
Judge Mark Fishburn
Criminal Court Division VI

Presented December 19, 2014
WE, the members of the Grand Jury for Davidson County, Tennessee serving a term of October to December 2014 under the Honorable Mark Fishburn hereby submit the following report. Beginning the experience no one knew what to expect, but we hoped to be able to give back to the community by upholding our civic duty. The experience of being a member of the Grand Jury was rewarding, educational, challenging and a privilege. The opportunity provided a detailed insight into the operation of the criminal justice system. The time spent serving on the Grand Jury is an experience that will not be forgotten.

CASES HEARD

During the term, the Grand Jury heard a total of 646 cases, returned a total of 645 true bills and 1 no true bill. The Grand Jury received two (2) applications to testify before the Grand Jury pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-12-104. Both applications were reviewed and discussed by the Grand Jury. After thorough review, it was determined neither application warranted investigation by the Grand Jury. The applicants were informed of this decision by a letter from the District Attorney General’s office.

PRESENTATIONS

The Grand Jury received many informational and educational presentations at the beginning of the term. The presentations from the following experts allowed the jurors to have an increased understanding of the information presented to them by the witnesses.

District Attorney General Glenn Funk and General Michaela Matthews explained legal terminology, how indictments and presentments are made and other information to help the jury
better understand how cases reach the Grand Jury. The information served to clarify the jurors understanding of the judicial system.

Sgt. Michael Shreeve of the MNPD, CSA Unit and Sue Ross of Our Kids spoke with the jury about child sex crimes. The information presented by these individuals was saddening, but necessary. Sgt. Shreeve and Ms. Ross were able to eloquently discuss such a difficult topic. The information they provided was extremely helpful to our deliberations. The presenters were also able to prepare the jury about some of the evidence that may be presented to them for a case involving sexual abuse of a child.

Presentations were made by Metro Nashville Police Officers with the Drug Task Force, SPOPS Unit, Gang Unit (Sgt. Jon Boese), Domestic Violence Unit (Sgt. Carlos Anderson & Det. John Timm), DUI Unit (Officer Brad Nave), and Warrants Division (Captain Randall Hickerson). All of the presenters were extremely knowledgeable on the material and were able to convey that knowledge in an interesting manner. All are to be commended on helping the Grand Jury better accomplish their duty. Each presenter was very generous with their time and was willing to answer any questions that arose.

Chief of Police Steve Anderson spoke with the Grand Jury about the Metro Nashville Police Department including: challenges presented by Nashville’s growth as a city, police officer body cameras and the Department’s use of analytics to help ensure efficiency and reduce crime. Chief Anderson was an engaging speaker and it is clear the Metro Nashville Police Department has a strong, capable leader at its helm.

Mayor Karl Dean was generous enough with his busy schedule to visit and discuss the City of Nashville and his priorities. The Mayor spoke at length regarding education, transportation, economic development and public safety. He gave a great overview of the City and his
thoughts on the future of Nashville. The Mayor also spoke highly of Chief Anderson and the leadership team of the Metro Nashville Police Department.

**SITE VISITS**

The Grand Jury took several trips during our term. First, we visited the Police Training Academy. A presentation was made explaining the escalation of force policy and how it is applied. The K-9 Unit provided a demonstration of the dogs at work. The handlers told us how the dogs trained and were used in the field. The aviation unit took jurors for a flight over downtown Nashville. On a subsequent visit, the Grand Jury participated in the Shoot, Don’t Shoot simulation. The simulator gave jurors a unique insight about the challenges police officers face every day. The split second decisions officers must make in determining whether or not to discharge their sidearm was eye opening. Many members of the Grand Jury participated in police ride alongs. Riding along with an officer allowed jurors to interact with the police in their daily activities. Riding with the officer was an exciting time. Finally, the Grand Jury attended CompStat. At CompStat, the weekly statistics of all the precincts were discussed. The analytics gathered are used to determine what trends are occurring in Nashville and how to respond to these trends. The high level overview achieved at CompStat allows the Police Department to effectively fight crime in Nashville.

**COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Grand Jury noticed an increased emphasis on domestic violence cases presented during the term. Domestic violence presents a challenge to law enforcement and prosecution as the victims can have conflicting emotions about prosecution. The Grand Jury was pleased to see General Funk and his staff places an increased emphasis on prosecuting these crimes.
A consistent decision needs to be reached on when increased penalties are sought for drug-free school zone offenses. The decision to seek increased penalties resulting from school zone violations seemed to be arbitrarily reached at times. The law needs to be applied equally, not arbitrarily and capriciously.

The Grand Jury heard a case regarding sexual abuse of a minor. The allegations were made in April, but a forensic interview with the victim did not occur promptly. The Department of Children’s Services is responsible for initiating the forensic interview with minors. However, for some reason this did not happen. Not conducting the forensic interview promptly does a disservice to the victim. The incident will no longer be fresh in the mind of the victim and important details may be lost. The Department of Children’s Services should ensure forensic interviews are conducted in a timely manner when a minor alleges sexual abuse or rape.

When preparing witnesses to testify it would be useful to inform them they can use their notes and records. They are not expected to testify only from memory. While many witnesses were aware they could use their notes, some struggled through their presentation from memory alone. Witnesses should be prepared to thoroughly discuss the incident stemming in the charges being presented. Two common question witnesses were not always prepared to answer was the age of the defendant and the criminal history of the defendant.

It would be helpful if the docket sheet passed out to each member of the Grand Jury had the charges listed exactly as they are on the indictment. The differences between the docket sheet and indictment caused confusion at times.

RECOGNITION

The Grand Jury would like to recognize several individuals whose time and effort were greatly appreciated.
Sergeant Robert Bandish was an excellent witness. He was always thoroughly prepared, extremely knowledgeable on police procedure and is a great ambassador for the Police Department. Further, Sgt. Bandish was able to keep the presentation of his cases fun and interesting. His humor and personality were greatly appreciated.

Lori Hooberry offered endless assistance. Ms. Hooberry handled many of the daily administrative activities involved with the Grand Jury, along with assisting presenters in operating the necessary video and computer equipment.

Holly Leach was extremely helpful in making sure alternate members of the Grand Jury would be present when regulars were not available. Ms. Leach also assisted the Grand Jury when other issues arose during the term.

The Grand Jury would like to recognize and compliment General Glenn Funk and his staff. Additionally, the Grand Jury commends the effort and time the General Sessions Judges spent attempting to resolve misdemeanor charges. Resolving these misdemeanor charges prevents them from being bound over to the Grand Jury, which ensures the Grand Jury can give the necessary and appropriate time to the complex indictments.

Last, but certainly not least, the Grand Jury wants to recognize the Foreperson, Stan Fossick. Stan’s tireless devotion in giving back to the community by serving as Foreperson is to be commended. Stan’s generosity and kindness to provide doughnuts every day we met was appreciated by all. He also paid for the jury to have lunch at Monell’s. It is clear to all who served on the Grand Jury Stan cares greatly about the City of Nashville. He generously donates his time and effort serving as the Grand Jury Foreperson. With his leadership, the proceedings were carried out in a smooth, efficient fashion. He let everyone actively participate and know their ser-
vice was appreciated. Stan Fossick's devotion to fulfilling his civic duty is relentless and honorable. We sincerely thank him for everything he does.

CLOSING

In closing, the members of the Grand Jury felt it was an honor and privilege to fulfill our civic duty. The experience of serving was extremely rewarding and interesting. Serving on the Grand Jury is a fantastic experience that we will remember for a lifetime. The Grand Jury serves an important role in the legal system. All members of the Grand Jury understood and embraced this role. If the opportunity presented itself in the future, members of the Grand Jury would gladly serve again.
Charles Cathey
Joshua Eldridge
Tiamecca Irving
Judy Kelley
Damion Rooks
Dianna Santana-Starnes
Virginia Villalba

Molly Boyd
Karen Fairbend
Mia Lewis
James Qualls
James Scott
Donald Woodley

KY
Exhibit 20
AFFIDAVIT OF ATTORNEY JOY KIMBROUGH

Comes now Joy Kimbrough, former attorney for Calvin E. Bryant, Jr., and states as follows:

1. I represented Mr. Calvin Bryant, Jr. in two jury trials in case number 2008-B-1478. Mr. Bryant was found guilty, on several counts, at the second jury trial and is currently serving the sentence ordered by the Court.

2. Prior to trial I entered into plea negotiations with representatives from the Davidson County District Attorney’s Office. To the best of my recollection, during the plea negotiations, the State extended the offer of allowing Mr. Bryant to plea guilty to the lesser charge of facilitation on each count. All counts would run concurrent for a total sentence of 8 years.

3. The facilitation offer was rejected because of the belief it was to be served at 100%.

SIGNED AND SWORN TO UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY THIS THE 23rd day of October, 2017.

JOY S. KIMBROUGH

STATE OF TENNESSEE
NOTARY PUBLIC

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 23rd day of October 2017.

M. Johnson

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 23rd day of October 2017.

State of IN
County of Davidson

Personally known \ OR produced identification
Type identification produced

[Signature]

[Commission Expiry Date: 10-1-2018]
Drug Free School Zones Raise Stakes in Nashville, Tennessee

If someone finds themselves charged with felony drug possession in Nashville, Tennessee, chances are before his or her case ever goes to a jury trial that he or she will face amended charges with the enhancing language relating to the drug free school zone.

Years ago, Tennessee enacted the Drug Free School Zone laws aimed at enhancing the punishment for those that sell drugs near minors. No one can challenge the intent of the law; however, there is nothing that prevents the application of such laws against virtually any criminal defendant in a city such as Nashville. The enhanced penalties increase the sentencing range by one classification, which can basically double the sentencing range and increased the applicable fines. The penalties also require mandatory jail time when charges might have otherwise allowed for the sentence to be served on probation.

Prosecutors can add the enhanced penalties when there is proof that the defendant's criminal act was within 1000 feet of a a public or private elementary school, middle school, high school, or public library, recreational center, park or child care. As one can imagine, in Nashville and other cities this 1000 feet boundary line can encompass almost an entire urban area. There is no requirement that the drug activity occur during school hours. Many cases stem from instances where individuals are simply driving down a major street. One might wonder if this was really the intent of the legislature, but regardless of that no one can question that the laws raise the stakes on almost every felony drug case in Nashville.

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About the author

Vincent Patrick Wyatt
(attorneys/vincent-wyatt-1704111.html)

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Message
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Exhibit 22
Doubts spread about drug-free school zone laws

In reaction to the crack epidemic of the 1980s, laws creating drug-free zones around schools spread nationwide. Now, hard questions are being raised — by legislators, activists, even law enforcement officials — about the fairness and effectiveness of those laws.

In New Jersey, Connecticut and Washington state, bills have been proposed to sharply reduce the size of the zones. A former assistant attorney general in Massachusetts reviewed hundreds of drug-free-zone cases, and found that less than 1 percent involved drug sales to youths.

Citing such developments, the Washington-based Justice Policy Institute is issuing a report Thursday that contends such laws, which generally carry extra-stiff mandatory penalties, have done little to safeguard young people and are enforced disproportionately on blacks and Hispanics.

“For two decades, policy-makers have mistakenly assumed that these statutes shield children from drug activity,” said report co-author Judith Greene, a New York-based researcher. “We found no evidence that drug-free zone laws protect children, but ample evidence that the laws hurt communities of color and contribute to mounting correctional costs.”

New Jersey’s sentencing review commission reached similar conclusions in December, when the panel — made up of state officials and criminal justice experts — found that students were involved in only 2 percent of the cases it examined. It said drug-free zones around schools, parks and housing projects cover virtually all of some cities, and 56 percent of offenders jailed for zone violations were black or Hispanic.

Drug arrests up, not down

Instead of declining, drug arrests in the zones have risen steadily since the law took effect in 1987, the commission found.

A bill based on the panel’s recommendation has been introduced that would reduce the zones to 200 feet from the present size of 1,000 feet around schools and 500 feet around parks and public housing. Drug dealers in the smaller zones would face five to 10 years in prison, compared to three to five years under current law — but judges would have more discretion in sentencing.

“When the overlap of zones in densely populated areas covers the entire city, the idea of special protection loses its meaning — people don’t know they’re in a school zone,” said Ben Barlyn, a deputy attorney general and executive director of the sentencing review panel. “It would be as if we made the entire New Jersey Turnpike a reduced speed zone.”

Barlyn said New Jersey prosecutors and police chiefs had no objection to shrinking the zones.

In Washington, state Sen. Adam Kline has proposed reducing drug-free school zones from 1,000 feet to 200 feet, and limiting the law’s application to regular school hours. In Connecticut, a hearing is scheduled Friday on a bill that would reduce school zones from 1,500 feet to 200 feet.

At recent meetings, activists with Connecticut’s A Better Way Foundation — which supports the bill — have displayed maps of major cities showing huge sections designated as drug-free zones. A map of New Haven indicated that Yale University’s golf course was the only large part of the city not encompassed in one of the overlapping zones.

Most states have drug-free-zone laws; they often entail mandatory prison terms that preclude such options as probation or treatment.

Lolita Buckner Inniss, a Cleveland State University law professor, is a vocal critic of the laws. Her research found that drug dealers in inner cities and compact rural towns were disproportionately likely to incur the extra penalties, in contrast to dealers in suburbs where zones covered relatively...
small portions of the communities. That urban-suburban split has the effect of making minorities more likely to bear the brunt of tougher sentencing rules, she said.

“I’ve been dissatisfied by how the public mutely accepts these laws,” she said.

**Laws mostly affecting adults**

Though intended to deter drug sales to youths, the laws have been applied mostly to adult-to-adult transactions, according to the Justice Policy Institute, a private research group advocating alternatives to prison.

It cited a study by William Brownsberger, a former Massachusetts assistant attorney general who reviewed 443 drug cases in three cities. He found that 80 percent of the cases occurred in drug-free school zones, but only 1 percent involved sales to minors.

“The laws have an undeniable appeal — nobody wants drugs near schools,” Brownsberger said in a telephone interview. “But the evidence suggests they’re not effective in moving drug dealing away from schools. If every place is a stay-away zone, no place is a stay-away zone.”

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Exhibit 23
Drug-Free Zone Laws: An Overview of State Policies

Drug-free zone laws are among the most longstanding sentencing policies in America’s War on Drugs. In 1970 – 12 years before President Ronald Reagan officially used the term “War on Drugs” – Congress passed an early version of a law increasing penalties for certain drug offenses committed near schools. In the 1980s, many state governments began to do the same. Today, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have adopted some form of drug-free school zone law.

The premise behind drug-free zone laws was that drug trafficking near schools posed a danger to children. In order to protect children from drug activity, lawmakers established protected zones around the places where children were most likely to be present, including schools and public parks. Individuals caught using or selling drugs within the protected zone faced substantially higher penalties than others who engaged in the same conduct outside the zone.

The application of drug-free school zone laws has proved problematic for several reasons:

- First, in the sentencing schemes of several states defendants may face two distinct penalties for a single offense.

- Second, the laws are frequently drafted so broadly that they result in enhanced penalties for drug offenses that are a substantial distance from a school, that do not involve school children in the offense, or take place outside of school hours. In Alabama, for example, a drug sale that takes place as much as three miles from a school, college, or public housing project is subject to a mandatory five-year prison term.

- Third, because protected areas are clustered within urban, high-density population areas, the zones disproportionately affect people of color and economically disadvantaged citizens. In recent years, these problems have led at least seven states, including Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and South Carolina, to reform their drug-free zone laws. This briefing paper provides an overview of these statutes nationally and an assessment of reform activity in recent years.

**Drug-Free Zones: Diversity Among the States**

Drug-free school zone laws vary by jurisdiction, with the key distinctions being in these areas: zone size, locations covered, offenses covered, and penalties imposed (see Appendix for full description of each state’s policies). Some states have also adopted restrictions on when and under what circumstances the enhanced penalties apply.

All 50 states and Washington, D.C. (see Appendix) apply some form of enhanced penalties to offenses involving manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute drugs. In nine states—Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Michigan and Oklahoma— defendants in drug-free zones can also face enhanced penalties even for simple drug possession that does not involve sale to school children. In Arkansas, for example, simple possession of two grams of methamphetamine is sufficient to
trigger a ten-year sentence with no parole in addition to the sentence imposed for the underlying offense.

As seen in Table 1, 32 states and the District of Columbia establish a zone area that extends 1,000 feet in all directions from the property line of schools and other protected areas. Thus, in most states a drug sale that takes place at a distance of more than three football fields away from a school building can result in enhanced prison time. Ten states have drawn zones more tightly so as to avoid overreaching in their impact, while seven others have cast a much wider net of 1,500 feet or more.

Though the stated intent of drug-free zone laws was to protect schools, 31 states have extended the scope of their policies to areas beyond elementary and secondary schools and onboard school buses. For example, several states have enacted zones around public housing facilities, public parks, churches, and daycare centers. Others, including Missouri and West Virginia, include colleges and universities in their definition of “school.” Utah adds shopping malls, amusement parks, and the parking lots of such areas to the list of covered areas.

The most expansive law in terms of covered locations is that of Arkansas, which draws zones around schools, public parks, public housing facilities, day care centers, colleges and universities, recreation centers, skating rinks, Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs, substance abuse treatment facilities, and churches.

### PENALTIES

Drug-free zone laws apply enhanced penalties in two different ways among the states. In thirty states, the law designates drug offenses within the protected zone as distinct crimes with their own penalties or penalty ranges. In Colorado, for example, sale of a controlled substance within a drug-free zone is a distinct criminal offense that carries an eight-year mandatory minimum sentence. In other states, the law prescribes enhanced penalties for underlying crimes when they occur within the protected zone. In Arizona, for instance, committing a covered offense within a drug-free zone increases the presumptive minimum and maximum penalties for the underlying offense by one year.

States also vary in the severity of the penalties drug offenders receive for violating drug-free school zone laws. In 13 states, violation of the law triggers a mandatory minimum sentence or sentence enhancement that ranges from one year in Virginia to eight years in Colorado. In Washington, DC, Rhode Island, and the state of Washington, the drug-free

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*Arizona’s drug-free zones apply 300 feet from school property on private property and 1,000 feet from school property on public property.

31 states have extended the scope of their policies to areas beyond elementary and secondary schools.

Table 1. Drug-Free Zone Sizes by State
zone violation doubles the maximum penalty for the underlying offense.

Kansas, Nebraska, and Tennessee elevate the felony class of the underlying drug offense when it is committed within a drug-free zone, thereby exposing the defendant to harsher penalties. Similarly, Delaware and Nevada treat violation of the drug-free zone as an aggravating factor in the sentencing proceeding for the underlying drug offense. Finally, some states allow juvenile defendants to be prosecuted for a drug-free zone offense in adult court and to be sentenced to an adult institution for violations of drug-free zone laws.

LIMITATIONS ON DRUG-FREE ZONES

A number of states have imposed various restrictions on their drug-free zone laws with the intention of narrowing their focus to more closely align with the original purpose of the law. Lawmakers have limited the application of the zone laws based on the nature of the transaction, the age of the defendant, the time of day, the presence of children, and whether the offense takes place on public or private property.

Seven states—Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, Montana, New Jersey, Texas, and Washington—apply an exception to their drug-free zone laws if the offense occurs within a private residence so long as no children are present and the defendant did not profit from the offense. Virginia similarly applies its law only on public property. California, Nebraska, and West Virginia exempt juvenile defendants from enhanced penalties, as does New Mexico for possession offenses. Florida, Massachusetts, and Nevada impose some form of time restrictions on their laws so that they only apply when children are present.

New York and South Carolina require that defendants know they are in the zone when they commit the offense, while North Carolina and North Dakota exempt small quantities of marijuana from their zone laws. Indiana is unique in that it creates affirmative defenses to its zone law: defendants may avoid the enhanced penalties of the law if they were only briefly in the zone while no minors were present or if they were in the zone solely because law enforcement officers stopped them there.

DRUG-FREE ZONE LAWS: REFORMS

While courts have been reluctant to grant Constitutional challenges to drug-free zone laws, concerns over the laws have led a number of state legislatures to reform their drug-free zone policies. By 2005, lawmakers in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Connecticut had commissioned studies to survey the impact and effectiveness of drug-free zone laws in their respective states, and identified problems regarding the scope of their respective zones and resulting racial disparities. Several states have since enacted policy reforms including Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Indiana. Delaware, Kentucky and South Carolina also reformed their drug-free zone laws as part of larger drug law reform bills. But other states, including Arkansas, Hawaii, and Texas, have adopted harsher penalties by expanding locations to include public housing and playgrounds where selling drugs can trigger enhanced penalties.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut’s harsh drug-free zone law was enacted in 1987. In 2001, Connecticut legislators changed state law to grant judges discretion in applying the school zone penalty in certain drug offenses based on “good cause.” Yet the Connecticut statute imposing a three-year mandatory minimum sentence for committing a drug offense within 1,500 feet of a school, public housing complex, or daycare center remains in effect.

However, further reforms may soon be enacted. In the 2013 legislative session, Connecticut’s Black and Puerto Rican Caucus sponsored a bill that would have reduced the size of the state’s drug-free zones from 1,500 feet to 300 feet. The bill was debated in the Connecticut House of Representatives but Republican opponents succeeded in filibustering the bill and its time expired without a vote. As a result, the bill stalled and will not become law for 2013.
Nevertheless proponents of the bill have vowed to introduce it again in the next legislative session.

**DELAWARE**

Delaware’s drug-free zone law was first adopted in 1989 and created 1,000-foot zones around schools and 300-foot zones around parks. Commission of a drug offense—including simple possession—within the zone constituted a distinct felony offense. In 2011, as part of a general effort to reduce excessive penalties for drug users and lower level sellers, the General Assembly passed and Governor Jack Markell signed a bill that substantially reformed the state’s drug laws.

The 2011 law shrunk Delaware’s drug-free zones from 1,000 feet to 300 feet. It also created three categories of drug offenses—simple possession, aggravated possession, and drug dealing—with the sentence for each offense depending on the type and quantity of drug involved and the presence or absence of aggravating circumstances. The law makes commission of the underlying offense within a drug-free zone an aggravating factor for the purposes of sentencing.

**INDIANA**

Indiana’s original drug-free zone law, passed in 1987, raised the felony class of the underlying drug offense from Class B to Class A if the offense occurred within 1,000 feet of school property, a public park, a public housing complex, or a youth program center. Under state law, the penalties imposed for committing a Class A felony are substantially harsher than those imposed for a Class B felony: a Class A felony exposes a defendant to a sentence of 20 to 50 years in prison with an advisory sentence of 30 years, while a Class B felony exposes a defendant to a sentence of 6 to 20 years in prison with an advisory sentence of 10 years. In 2007, two bills were introduced—one in each house of the legislature—that would have expanded drug-free zones to churches and marked bus stops, respectively.

In response to the 2007 bills, Kelsey Kauffman, formerly of DePauw University, and her students began studying the impact and effectiveness of the state law. Their findings were similar to those in Massachusetts and Connecticut: drug-free zones blanketed large portions of inner city areas in Indianapolis and more than 75% of defendants who had their felony class raised under the drug-free zone statute were black. Professor Kauffman and her students presented their findings before the Indiana Senate Committee on Corrections, Criminal, and Civil Matters in 2007 and 2008 and again before the specially-convened Indiana Sentencing Policy Study Committee in October 2008. Their testimony contributed to the defeat of the bills in the legislature.

In a drug-free zone case in February 2012, the Indiana Supreme Court reduced the 20-year sentence of a Kokomo man convicted of possessing small amounts of marijuana and cocaine within a drug-free zone. Because the man would have faced a maximum prison sentence of only 18 months if his offense had occurred outside the zone, the court found that the 20-year sentence was grossly disproportionate to the severity of the crime. Furthermore, the court signaled that it would continue to reduce harsh sentences imposed under the drug-free zone law when it reduced a similar sentence in June 2012.

In response, to address the concerns of the Indiana Supreme Court as well as the issues documented in the DePauw University study, the legislature passed and Governor Mike Pence signed a bill that substantially reformed the state’s law. The bill reduced Indiana’s zones from 1,000 feet to 500 feet and eliminated the zones around public housing complexes and youth program centers. It also added the requirement that a minor must be reasonably expected to be present when the underlying drug offense occurs. Lastly, the measure made violation of the drug-free zone law an “enhancing circumstance” of the underlying drug offense, the severity of which is dependent upon the type and quantity of the drug involved. Because the law also restructures Indiana’s felony classification structure and penalties, a defendant sentenced under the revised law now faces a mandatory minimum penalty of one year rather than twenty years.
KENTUCKY

Lawmakers modified the state’s drug free zone in 2011. The provision was included in a larger package of sentencing reforms that were adopted to address the state’s growing prison population. State lawmakers shrunk the drug free zone from 1,000 yards to 1,000 feet. Anecdotal reports suggest that the original zone was a mistake given that most states impose a zone measured in feet rather than yards. The change in policy was adopted without opposition.

MASSACHUSETTS

In 1989, the General Assembly of Massachusetts passed the state’s first drug-free zone law, which imposed a 2-15-year mandatory minimum sentence for convictions of selling or distributing drugs within 1,000 feet of a school. A 1993 amendment drew a 100-foot zone around parks, and a 1998 amendment added a 1,000-foot zone around day care and Head Start facilities. Efforts to reform the law began in 2000, when Dorchester District Court Judge Sydney Hanlon noticed that a majority of drug-free zone defendants in her courtroom were black or Hispanic and requested that Northeastern University researchers conduct an analysis on the racial impact of the law. The researchers documented that 80% of the defendants who received enhanced sentences under the drug-free zone law were black or Hispanic—even though 45% of those arrested for drug violations statewide were white.

The next layer of drug-free zone research was conducted by William Brownsberger at the Boston University School of Public Health. In his analysis of 443 drug sale cases in Fall River, New Bedford, and Springfield, Massachusetts, Brownsberger found that school zones covered 29% of the three studied cities and 56% of high-poverty areas. These findings led Brownsberger to recommend that the Massachusetts zone be shrunk from 1,000 feet to 100-250 feet.

These findings were bolstered by a 2009 report issued by the Prison Policy Initiative (PPI). PPI’s research, which focused on Hampden County in western Massachusetts, revealed that residents of urban areas were five times as likely to live within a drug-free zone as residents of rural areas. The data further showed that more than half of black and Hispanic residents lived in drug-free zones while less than a third of white residents did so. PPI also found that the addition of Head Start facilities to the law in 1998 disproportionately impacted poor neighborhoods since such facilities service poor neighborhoods and are therefore more likely to be located there.

As a result of the issues surrounding the state’s drug-free school zone law, legislators serving on Massachusetts’s joint Judiciary Committee approved a bill that would have shrunk the size of the zones and limited the hours of their effectiveness, but it died on the floor of the General Assembly. In the summer of 2012, however, with the endorsement of Governor Deval Patrick, the General Assembly passed a bill that reduced the size of Massachusetts’s zones from 1,000 feet to 300 feet and limited the hours of the zones’ operation from 5 a.m.-midnight.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey first enacted its drug-free zone law as part of sweeping drug legislation in 1987. The original law drew a 1,000-foot zone around schools; distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to distribute drugs within that zone was classified as a third-degree felony with a three-year mandatory minimum prison sentence. In 1998, New Jersey lawmakers added a 500-foot zone for drug sales around public housing complexes, parks, libraries, and museums. Violation of the 1998 law constituted a second-degree offense, for which a prison term is the presumptive sentence. Furthermore, New Jersey courts have interpreted the word “school” in the statute to be broad, including daycare centers, vocational training centers, and other educational facilities.

Advocacy organizations including the Drug Policy Alliance and Families Against Mandatory Minimums prioritized reform of the state’s drug-free school zone laws. This was instrumental in the legislature’s decision to convene the New Jersey Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing in 2004. The Commission found that that enforcement of the drug-
free-zone laws had a devastating impact on minority defendants because New Jersey's densely populated urban areas were transformed into massive "drug-free" zones. Nearly every defendant (96%) convicted and incarcerated for a drug-free zone offense in New Jersey was either black or Latino. The Commission recommended that the legislature shrink the size of the zones from 1,000 to 200 feet and eliminate the mandatory minimum sentence for school zone violations.

The commission’s bill passed in committee in 2005 but stalled in the legislature later that year. Five years later, Governor Jon Corzine signed into law a bill that did not alter the 1,000-foot zone size, but eliminated the mandatory minimum prison sentence for school zone offenses and enhanced judicial discretion in such cases.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

South Carolina maintains an expansive zone of more than 2,600 feet, or a half mile, around restricted areas. However, lawmakers modified the triggers for penalty enhancements in restricted areas when a comprehensive package of sentencing reforms that garnered bipartisan support was adopted in 2010. The modification requires that anyone arrested for a drug offense in an enhancement zone must have knowledge that he or she was in a restricted area with the intent of selling.

**CONCLUSION**

Drug-free zone laws were initially promoted as an attempt to keep dangerous drug activity away from children. In practice, drug-free zone laws have created a number of serious issues within the criminal justice system, by frequently imposing excessive penalties and by subjecting urban poor and minority populations to harsher penalties than others for similar drug offenses. Spurred by more than a decade of research, a number of states are taking measures to reform their drug-free zone laws to alleviate the burdens they impose on poor people and people of color with no benefit to public safety. These states should serve as a model for other jurisdictions as the movement for fairer, more effective drug laws continues to build momentum in the United States.

**ENDNOTES**

2 Ibid.
## Appendix. Drug-Free School Zone Laws by State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Statute</th>
<th>Zone Size</th>
<th>Covered Locations</th>
<th>Covered Offenses</th>
<th>Penalties</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Code of Ala. § 13A-12-250</td>
<td>15,460 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (includes colleges), public housing projects</td>
<td>Sale</td>
<td>5-year mand min, no parole</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>AK Stat. § 11.71.040-41</td>
<td>500 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses, youth and recreation centers</td>
<td>Possession w/ recklessness (either 3rd or 4th degree felony)</td>
<td>Class C or Class B felony</td>
<td>Private residence + personal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>A.R.S. § 13-3411</td>
<td>300 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Sale, possession, manufacture</td>
<td>Increases presumptive min and max by 1 year</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>A.C.A. § 5-64-411</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Public parks, schools (includes colleges and universities), school bus stops, skating rinks, YMCAs, community centers, public housing complexes, substance abuse treatment facilities, day care centers, churches</td>
<td>Possession, delivery, manufacture, sale</td>
<td>10-year additional sentence (concurrent or consecutive), no parole</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Ann.Cal. Health &amp; Safety Code § 11353.6</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>3-5 years discretionary</td>
<td>Defendant &gt; 18 years old: school hours only; only applies to places children expected to be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>C.R.S.A § 18-1.3-407</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>8-year mandatory min</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>C.G.S.A. § 21a-278a</td>
<td>1,500 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, public housing complexes, day care centers</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>3-year mand min additional (consec)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>16 Del.C. § 4701</td>
<td>300 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, parks, churches, rec. areas</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>Aggravating Factor (Min. Class D Felony)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>DC ST § 48-904.07a</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities), day care centers, public swimming pools, playgrounds, arcades, youth centers, public housing complexes</td>
<td>Distribution, possession w/ intent to distribute</td>
<td>Up to 2x fine Up to 2x maximum sentence</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>F.S.A. § 893.13</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities), day care centers, churches, public housing complexes, parks</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>3-year man min</td>
<td>Effective only 6am-midnight (schools only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Ga. Code Ann. § 16-13-32.4</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, public housing complexes</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>Up to 20 years + $20,000 fine (consecutive)</td>
<td>Private residence + personal + no child &lt; 17 present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>HRS § 712-1249.6</td>
<td>750 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses, parks, public housing complexes</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale</td>
<td>Class C or Class D felony</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Statute</td>
<td>Zone Size</td>
<td>Covered Locations</td>
<td>Covered Offenses</td>
<td>Penalties</td>
<td>Limitations</td>
</tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>I.C. § 37-2739B</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>5-year mand min to life</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>720 ILCS 570/407</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses, public housing complexes, public parks, churches, nursing homes</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>Class X Felony</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>IC 35-48-4-16</td>
<td>500 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, parks</td>
<td>Possession, delivery</td>
<td>Level 4 Felony</td>
<td>Defenses: 1) Briefly in zone while minor was present; 2) No minor present; 3) Law officer requested or stopped in zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>I.C.A. § 124.401A</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>Up to 5 year enhancement</td>
<td>Defendant &gt; 18 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>K.S.A. 21-5705</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, sale</td>
<td>+1 Felony Level</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>KRS § 218A.1411</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Trafficking</td>
<td>Class D Felony</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>LSA-R.S. 40:981.3</td>
<td>2,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities), drug treatment facilities, religious facilities, public housing complexes, day care centers</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, sale</td>
<td>Maximum fine + up to 1.5 times maximum sentence</td>
<td>Private residence + no child &lt; 18 present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>17-A M.R.S.A § 1105-A</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses</td>
<td>Trafficking</td>
<td>Varies based on drug</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>M.D. Code, Criminal Law, § 5-627</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>Up to 20 years (1st offense); 5-year mand min (2nd+)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>M.G.L.A. 94C § 32J</td>
<td>300 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, preschools; parks (100 ft.)</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>2-15 years</td>
<td>5am-midnight only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>M.C.L.A. 333.7410</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, libraries</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>2-year minimum (judge may modify)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>M.S.A. § 152.01</td>
<td>300 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, parks, public housing complexes</td>
<td>Possession, delivery, manufacture, sale</td>
<td>Sentence degree enhancement</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>Miss. Code Ann. §41-29-142</td>
<td>1,500 ft. from building; 1,000 ft. from property line</td>
<td>Schools, churches, public parks, ballparks, public gyms, youth centers, movie theaters</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>3 year mand min to life</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>V.A.M.S. 195.214</td>
<td>2,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities), school buses</td>
<td>Distribution, sale</td>
<td>Class A Felony</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>MCA 45-9-109</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Distribution, sale</td>
<td>3 year mand min to life</td>
<td>Private residence + no child &lt; 18 present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Neb.Rev.St. § 28.416</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, playgrounds, colleges (1,000 ft.); youth centers, video arcades, public pools (100 ft.)</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>+1 Felony Level</td>
<td>Defendant &gt; 18 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>N.R.S. 453.3345</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, campuses, school bus stops playgrounds, parks, pools, video centers, arcades</td>
<td>Manufacture, delivery, sale</td>
<td>Aggravating Factor</td>
<td>Within 1 hour of school hours (school bus stop only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>N.H. Rev. Stat. §193-B:1</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>1 year mand min + 2x maximum penalty for underlying offense</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale</td>
<td>3 year mand min, no parole</td>
<td>Judge may adjust parole ineligibility based on mitigating factors; private residence + no child &lt; 18 present + not for profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>N. M. S. A. 1978, § 30-31-2(Y)</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Possession, delivery, manufacture, sale</td>
<td>First-class Felony</td>
<td>Possession limited to defendants &gt; 18 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>McKinney’s Penal Law § 220.44</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, day care centers</td>
<td>Trafficking</td>
<td>Class B Felony</td>
<td>Limited to areas “accessible” to public; some drugs require knowledge of zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>N.C.G.S.A. § 90-95</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, child care centers, parks</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>Class E Felony</td>
<td>&lt; 5 g marijuana excepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>NDCC, 19-03.1-23(3)(a)</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>8-year sentence; if defendant &gt; 21, 8-year mand min</td>
<td>Marijuana excepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>R.C. § 2925.01(P)</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Sale</td>
<td>Min. 4th Degree Felony</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>63 Okl. St.Ann. § 2-401(F)</td>
<td>2,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities), parks, public housing complexes, child care centers</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale</td>
<td>2x max sentence</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>O.R.S. § 475.904</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Delivery, manufacture</td>
<td>Class A Felony</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6317</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, parks, playgrounds; school buses (250 ft)</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale</td>
<td>2-year mand min</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Gen.Laws 1956, § 21-28-4.07.1</td>
<td>900 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, parks, playgrounds</td>
<td>Distribution, manufacture</td>
<td>2x max sentence 2x max fine</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## POLICY BRIEF: DRUG-FREE ZONE LAWS

This briefing paper was written by Nicole D. Porter, Director of Advocacy at The Sentencing Project, and Tyler Clemons, Research Associate. Published December 2013.

The Sentencing Project works for a fair and effective U.S. justice system by promoting reforms in sentencing policy, addressing unjust racial disparities and practices, and advocating for alternatives to incarceration.

### Table: Drug-Free Zone Laws

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<th>State</th>
<th>Statute</th>
<th>Zone Size</th>
<th>Covered Locations</th>
<th>Covered Offenses</th>
<th>Penalties</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Code 1976 § 44-53-445</td>
<td>2,640 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities), parks, playgrounds</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>Up to 10-year sentence</td>
<td>Defendant must know of zone; police cannot stop within zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>SDCL § 22-42-19</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, youth centers, public swimming pools, video arcades (500 ft.)</td>
<td>Possession, delivery, manufacture, sale</td>
<td>Class 4 Felony = 5 year mand min</td>
<td>Judge may adjust sentence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>T. C. A. § 39-17-432</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, child care centers, libraries, rec. centers, parks</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>+1 Felony Level</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>V.T.C.A., Health &amp; Safety Code § 481.134</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities), video arcades, youth centers, public swimming pools (300 ft.)</td>
<td>Possession, delivery, manufacture, sale</td>
<td>+5 year max sentence</td>
<td>Possession excepted if inside private residence + no child &lt; 18 present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>U.C.A. 1953 § 58-37-8(4)</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities), child care centers, parks, arcades, rec. centers, parks, amusement parks, churches, shopping malls, sports facilities, movie theaters, playhouses, parking lots, libraries</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>First Degree Felony</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>18 V.S.A. § 4237</td>
<td>500 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses</td>
<td>Distribution, sale</td>
<td>Up to 10-year sentence</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>18 V.S.A. § 4237</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses, school bus stops, day care centers, mental health facilities</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>1-5 years mand min</td>
<td>Public property only; school bus stop limited to when children are present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>West’s RCWA 69.50.435</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses, school bus stops</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>2x max sentence</td>
<td>Private residence + no child &lt; 18 present + not for profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>W. Va. Code, § 60A-4-406</td>
<td>1,000 ft.</td>
<td>Schools (including universities)</td>
<td>Distribution, sale</td>
<td>No probation for 3 years</td>
<td>Defendant &gt; 18 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>W.S.1977 § 35-7-1036</td>
<td>500 ft.</td>
<td>Schools, school buses</td>
<td>Possession w/ intent, delivery, sale, manufacture</td>
<td>2-year mand min</td>
<td>Penalties less for minors and for possession</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exhibit 24
A bi-partisan majority of Tennessee residents support reforming the state's drug-free school zone law — one that's been criticized as being out of line with the legislation's intent.

"Although drug-free school zones may sound good on the surface, they seem to create some troubling inequities," said Senate Minority Leader Lee Harris. "As a consequence, today, many states are in the process of making modifications to their drug-free school zone laws. It's time for Tennessee lawmakers to join them, and as this poll shows, Tennesseans are ready for change."

icitizen, in collaboration with Sen. Harris, conducted the poll. The organization surveyed 531 registered Tennessee voters and found that more than eight in 10 Tennesseans support a reform to The Tennessee Drug-Free School Zone Act, which was enacted in 1995. The law enhances penalties for drug crimes that occur within 1,000 feet of a school, daycare, library, recreational center, or park.

"It's refreshing to see D's and R's come together in the name of criminal justice reform ... this law disproportionately affects urban areas such as Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga." — Senate Minority Leader Lee Harris
A defendant in a school zone currently faces 15 years in prison for a first-time, nonviolent offense before the possibility of being released. If the offense took place outside of a school zone, the same defendant would be eligible for release after 29 months. The law applies even when the offense occurs outside of school hours, when school is closed during summer, and regardless if children are present.

About 84 percent of those polled support major or minor reforms to the law. Tennessee residents — 62 percent — say policy that clarifies the law's intent should enhance penalties when children are present. Support for reform garnered interest from both parties, with 90 percent of Democrats and 80 percent of Republicans supporting a reform to the law.

"It's refreshing to see D's and R's come together in the name of criminal justice reform," Sen. Harris said. "I believe that they recognize, like I do, that this law disproportionately affects urban areas such as Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, and Chattanooga. In these urban areas, due to their density and the sheer number of schools, most places are a drug-free school zone."

Nashville's District Attorney Glenn Funk has previously said in op-eds published in the Commercial Appeal and Chattanooga Times Free Press that the law is applied inconsistently with the legislature's intent.

"[The intent] was to keep drugs away from schoolchildren," Funk wrote. "This enhancement puts street level drug-free school zone act violations on par with second degree murder. The idea that this law keeps school kids safe is a myth, all it accomplishes is the destruction of communities."
Exhibit 25
Children and illicit drug activity do not mix and as a society we recognize this. In fact, every state in the U.S. has adopted drug-free zone legislation reflecting this notion. Drug-free zone laws (“DFZLs”) aim to ensure the safety and well being of our children and their surrounding communities by discouraging drug activity near locations children frequent, such as schools or parks. A noble goal indeed. But what if the law is failing? Or even worse, what if the law is doing more harm than good? Recent congressionally led and institutionally driven research makes this concern all-too-real, bringing to the forefront an important question: What should Tennessee do in light of these findings?

Tennessee’s DFZL (TENN. CODE ANN. § 39-17-432) aims to deter drug activity away from youth by requiring enhanced and mandatory minimum sentences for criminal drug-law violations within one thousand feet of any school, child care agency, public library, recreational center, or park. On its face, such a law seems perfectly reasonable and suitable for providing special protection to our youth. But in this generalized assumption lays a problem.

Statistical research demonstrates that when the “buffer zones” employed under DFZLs are not adequately tailored to a state’s needs, the primary deterrent value of the law is often rendered ineffective and disparate impacts on minority and lower-income communities are furthered. For example, consider urban areas or other densely populated sections of a municipality. These areas generally retain more schools, parks, and the like, meaning more drug-free zones per square mile. As the zones per square mile increase, the super-criminalized areas begin to overlap until entire communities are turned into giant, unbroken, drug-free zones. The overlapping zones create a blanket so large that any incentive to avoid participating in drug activity near the proscribed locations is negated, thus diluting the special protection intended by the law. Aside from negating the intended purpose of the law, states’ failure to tailor their DFZL to their particular needs results in disparate impacts on minorities and lower-income classes, who already are effectively forced to reside in these densely populated areas for socioeconomic reasons. Merely by their minority or low-income status, individuals face and receive harsher sentencing violations than an individual who lives in more affluent, less dense suburbs.

So, what should we do? Tennessee needs to investigate for shortcomings in its DFZL. The state’s legal community has voiced and continues to voice opposition to the current construction of the law, and with recent findings calling into question substantively similar DFZLs in jurisdictions akin to Tennessee, the concern is well warranted. Many other states already reviewed their drug-free zone legislation, found substantial defects, and made beneficial corrections to their law. That path, if taken by Tennessee, can provide the benefit of ensuring our DFZL adequately protects our vulnerable youth. Such a realization however, is impossible without proper investigation. How to fix our DFZL is a fact-specific question, and while other jurisdictional studies provide guidance on the issue, the answer depends upon the types of defects unearthed by a thorough statistical analysis and practical consideration of Tennessee and its DFZL. Ultimately, the circumstances demand that the Tennessee General Assembly and social engineers of this state take legislative and investigative action to ensure the children of our community are as safe from illegal drug activity as possible.

To read the Mr. Muse’s full report on Tennessee’s Drug-free zones, visit memphisbar.org/news-publications/memphis-lawyer-magazine/2016

Devon C. Muse is a second-year law student at The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. He received his bachelor of arts in political science with a minor in legal studies from East Tennessee State University. Muse is active in the community as well as his law school, where he serves on the Memphis Law Review and Moot Court Board. He previously worked as a judicial extern for the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals and as a legal intern for Spivey King & Spivey LLP. He currently works as a graduate research assistant to Professor of Law John Newman, and intends to spend his summer in Nashville, Tennessee as a legal intern for the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office.
Exhibit 26
Clayton judge frees man, saying prison term was 'just not right'

Steve Visser - The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Updated 5:10 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2015 Filed in Metro Atlanta / State news

Charlie Horace Scandrett Jr. was a free man Tuesday after serving 18 years of a 30-year sentence on a drug conviction, a punishment a Clayton County judge said was "just not right."

"I'm going to do today what probably should have been done a long time ago," said Superior Court Judge Matthew O. Simmons as the Scandrett's father and sister wept during a hearing. "Today he can go home to his family."

Scandrett could have been out within five years but the state-court judge who was filling in for Simmons the day he was convicted in 1997 gave him the maximum sentence possible under the recidivist laws at the time, said Patrick Mulvaney, a lawyer for the Southern Center for Human Rights.
The Southern Center and Clayton County's top prosecutor, normally staunch adversaries, became allies in the case and saw the sentence as excessive, even for the 1990s, when stiff drug sentences were handed down routinely.

District Attorney Tracy Graham Lawson credited Scandrett's 79-year-old father, Charlie Horace Scandrett Sr., for fighting to free his son and the Southern Center, which litigates anti-death penalty cases and prison-reform lawsuits, for taking the case to modify Scandrett's sentence to time served.

"I am proud of his daddy and grateful to his daddy for loving his son so much to see that this happened today," Lawson told the judge Tuesday. "We're here today to just do the right thing."

The younger Scandrett had previous brushes with the law but all for non-violent drug cases, Lawson said. Forest Park Police arrested him during what appeared to be a drug transaction and he was charged with drug possession and convicted.

Linda Scandrett, 59, said her father had spent about $20,000 on lawyers who later told them their cause was hopeless since laws at the time allowed her brother to be sentenced to 30 years with no parole for possessing less than a gram of cocaine.

An air-condition repairman told the family about the Southern Center. "And then within three weeks we are here," she said Tuesday at the Clayton County courthouse.

Scandrett had three prior drug convictions, two for possession and one for sale. "He was an addict," said Lawson, the prosecutor. "Today this court would have sentenced him to the drug-court program and he wouldn't have ever gone to prison."

In court Tuesday, Simmons said, "It appears that Mr. Scandrett has gotten a much longer sentence than other people similarly situated. It is just not right."

Scandrett did not have a single disciplinary infraction during his nearly two decades in prison and had been trained as a veterinarian technician, Mulvaney said. He noted the state Board of Pardons and Paroles had been unable to assist Scandrett after prison-reform legislation.

While the General Assembly gave relief to dealers convicted under no-parole recidivist laws, lawmakers did not include those convicted of simple possession, Mulvaney said.

He said the Southern Center was evaluating other cases where people are still serving lengthy sentences for old drug-possession convictions.

"This type of case makes me cry," Lawson said. "I was so upset when they told me about the sentence. I said, 'That is just upside down. That is wrong.'"
Pardon Me

How Executive Clemency Works in Tennessee (and How It Doesn’t)

By Benjamin Raybin on Mon, 08/01/2016 - 12:00am

“How can I get a pardon?” is one of the most common questions I am asked as a criminal defense attorney. In many situations the conviction at issue was the person’s only legal transgression, resulted in no one getting hurt, and is decades old. Nonetheless, my answer always begins with a piece of advice: circle January 2019 on your calendar, because that is the soonest you can reasonably hope for any chance of relief.

Since taking office in 2011, Gov. Bill Haslam has not granted a single pardon. Thus far he is following the path of his predecessor, Phil Bredesen, who issued all 22 of his pardons in the final days of his second term. Withholding clemency until the end of a governor’s term is the trend nationwide.[1]

Given the reelection success of Tennessee’s last five governors, this pattern means a person with a troubled past can expect to time their hopes for redemption in eight year increments.

To provide potential clients with more insight into the pardon process, I attempted to find data on the number of people in Tennessee who apply for clemency and how likely they are to receive it. I learned that these statistics are not tracked by the state and that the facts of each case are not publically available unless relief is granted.

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Humanity and good policy conspire to dictate, that the benign prerogative of pardoning should be as little as possible fettered or embarrassed. The criminal code of every country partakes so much of necessary severity, that without an easy access to exceptions in favor of unfortunate guilt, justice would wear a countenance too sanguinary and cruel.

— Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist Papers No. 74

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Legal Background

Although the Tennessee Constitution gives the governor exclusive authority to issue “reprieves and pardons,”[2] the Tennessee Board of Parole is statutorily delegated the duty to review clemency requests and make recommendations at the request of the governor.[3] The Board of Parole is now an independent agency, but until 1979 it was part of the Tennessee Department of Corrections and named the “Tennessee Board of Pardons and Paroles.”[4]
Executive clemency comes in three main categories:

- Pardons grant "forgiveness" for prior convictions and, in some situations, expungement of the conviction and restoration of rights.
- Commutations reduce a sentence currently in effect, such as incarceration to parole or a death sentence to life in prison.
- Exonerations are adjudications that a person is actually innocent of a convicted offense. Required before person can be compensated for wrongful imprisonment.

As a matter of practice the Board of Parole receives all clemency applications,[5] which are available on its website.[6] Staff members within the "Executive Clemency Unit" of the board’s "Operations Division" perform an initial screening to see if an application meets threshold procedural standards, such as completeness.[7] Applicants are advised if required information is lacking.[8]

Pardon applications considered complete are forwarded to the seven board members, who decide by majority vote whether to grant a "formal hearing." There is no limit for how long the board has to consider an application before making a decision. If a hearing is denied, the application is rejected without ever being seen by the governor. As will be discussed later, this practice may violate the board's statutory "duty ... to make nonbinding recommendations concerning all requests for pardons."[9]

If the board conducts a clemency hearing, the recommendation for either approval or denial is sent to the governor.[10] The governor's subsequent decision is provided to the board, which notifies the applicant.[11]

Public information regarding clemency requests is extremely limited. The board publishes an annual report, which provides the number of applications received and the number that met "the initial screening requirements and were reviewed by the board."[12] But how many requests are actually granted or at least referred to the governor?

Since the Board of Parole is the gatekeeper for clemency requests, I contacted the board for more information. I learned that the board does not actually keep track of this information. Since the Public Records Act requires disclosure of only existing documents, the only way I could obtain such data was by paying the board to compile it (which it graciously agreed to do for me). I ended up paying $280 for an annual breakdown of numbers since 2000.

Clemency Data

Here are the highlights of Tennessee's clemency statistics since 2000.[13] On average, about 150 people apply for some form of executive relief each year. Of those, only 3 to 4 per year are granted hearings (about 2 percent). This means that about 98 percent of applications are summarily denied by the board without a hearing or review by the governor. Most of the few which receive hearings are ultimately granted relief by the governor.

Commutations (a reduction in the sentence) are the most requested form of clemency but the least granted. Of the 1,086 requests during Gov. Bredesen's administration, only seven were given hearings and five granted (a total success rate of less than half a percent). Of 322 pardon requests, 22 (6.8 percent) were granted by the governor. Exoneration requests were rarer: of 21 applications, 4 were given hearings and only 2 were granted.

The data I received also reflects the timing of relief. Gov. Bredesen issued all of his pardons and commutations just four days before he left office,14 and Gov. Haslam has yet to exercise his authority. Thus, aside from a pair of exonerations issued by Gov. Bredesen mid-term, clemency has only been granted on a single day since 2003. Of the 692 applications submitted since Gov. Haslam took office,[14] have been referred to the governor by the board and are awaiting decision, including eight from 2012.[15]

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Total Reviewed by Board</td>
<td>1,411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pardons</td>
<td>322</td>
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</table>
Commutations 1,068 327  
Exonereations 21 14  
**Total Files Sent to Governor** 29 14  
Pardons 19 10  
Commutations 7 4  
Exonereations 4 0  
**Total Granted Relief** 29 0  
Pardons 22 0  
Commutations 5 0  
Exonereations 2 0  

**Clemency Criteria**

Who is fortunate enough to make it past the Board of Parole? The Governor’s Office denied my Public Records request for documents on pending recommendations, explaining that the board has promulgated rules making its recommendations confidential.[16] Thus, there is essentially no way to evaluate or oversee clemency determinations by the board or the governor, absent looking at granted requests or tracking down applicants.

The Board of Parole does give some guidance on its website. Pardon applicants are told the governor will give them “serious consideration” when

1. they have not been convicted or confined within five years since the completion of the sentence from which they seek a pardon,
2. they have demonstrated “good citizenship” and
3. they can verify a “specific and compelling need for a pardon.”[17]

Commutation applicants must demonstrate “exceptional strides in self-development and self-improvement” and that either

1. they are suffering from a serious illness,
2. they are the only person able to care for a close family member with such illness or
3. they have been rehabilitated and are no longer a threat to society.[18]

To be considered for exoneration, the applicant must show clear and convincing evidence that they did not commit the crime and they have exhausted all possible state judicial remedies.[19] In other words, they must affirmatively prove their innocence; an absence of proof is not enough.

The opaque process and vague guidelines makes it difficult to advise clients about their chances for clemency. For example, how does someone demonstrate “a specific and compelling need” for a pardon?[20]

In general, a pardon “forgives” an offense but does not necessarily “forget” it.[21] Pardons automatically restore civil rights, [22] except for firearm rights.[23] but the same is true for a civil restoration of rights that can be sought in circuit court.[24] Pardons can trigger expungement and reclamation of firearm rights, but only if the offense was “non-violent” and there are no other disqualifying convictions.[25] However, it may be possible to get the same relief even without a pardon.[26] Thus, demonstrating a “specific and compelling need” can become a rather complex legal question that may exclude many deserving candidates.

Many of the potential clients with whom I have spoken care very much about either the intangible redemptive nature of a pardon or the more practical ability to possess a firearm to defend their homes or go hunting with their families. Whether
Gov. Haslam (and perhaps more importantly, the Board of Parole) considers such intentions sufficiently "compelling" cannot be known without more information than is publicly available. Moreover, such determinations are susceptible to unpredictable variance between gubernatorial administrations.

**Commentary**

No discussion on Tennessee executive clemency is complete without mention of the Ray Blanton pardon scandal.[27] In the late 1970s, members of the Blanton administration were arrested for selling pardons. The ensuing furor led to a bipartisan coup to expedite his ouster from office resulting in a lasting stain on our state.[28]

While the manner of Blanton's pardoning was certainly remarkable, his exercise of gubernatorial clemency power was not. Gov. Malcolm Patterson (1907-11) issued more than 1,400 pardons in four years, compared to less than half that amount granted by Blanton in (almost) as much time.[29] Gov. Patterson's most famous pardon was of Duncan Cooper for the murder of Senator Edward Carmack as the Tennessee Supreme Court was announcing its affirmance of Cooper's conviction.[30]

At the national level, presidents have also issued hundreds of pardons and commutations each year until relatively recently. [31] Most of President Obama's clemency grants have come in the form of mass commutations to non-violent drug offenders,[32] along with a handful of pardons every year or so.[33]

Until the early 1920s, clemency served as the primary temper on often harsh sentences and injustices within the judicial system, where many crimes were capital offenses. Indeed, Tennessee's historical reliance on clemency is demonstrated by the still-existing but disused statutory procedure for judicial recommendations for a pardon or commutation.[34] Once indeterminate sentencing, the parole system, and greater access to appellate review grew stronger, clemency took a back seat.[35]

Nonetheless, our courts still defer to executive clemency in the pursuit of justice. The United States Supreme Court has held — in denying the availability of federal habeas corpus relief on the ground of actual innocence — that clemency is the "fail safe" in our criminal justice system, which "is the historic remedy for preventing miscarriages of justice."[36]

Thus, a combination of systematic transformations and political pressures have combined to fundamentally change how many and how frequently clemency grants are issued. Nonetheless, clemency remains just and appropriate for many Tennesseans with very old convictions who have otherwise contributed to society. The reduced access to clemency for these people is unfortunate.

**Suggestions**

There are several options available to strike a better balance. First and most basically, the process could be made more clear and transparent. On the front end, applicants could be given better direction about the standard they are to meet. For example, what constitutes a "specific and compelling need for a pardon," and how does someone demonstrate this?

The application forms could be updated to allow people to better make their case. The instructions on the Pardon form explain that applicants have "the obligation to provide written verification of good citizenship and of compelling and specific need," described as letters of support.[37] Yet nowhere is the applicant directed to provide any direct statement to the board other than a narrative about the offense. By contrast, Georgia's application form includes a full page for the applicant to explain his or her reasons for seeking a pardon.[38]

It is imperative for the state to publicize better data. Potential applicants should know that their request has a very small chance of getting approved only once every eight years, if that is to be the practice. Armed with this information, attorneys handling such cases would also be better able to represent current clients and advise potential ones. The public has the right — and the responsibility — to know how constitutional powers are being exercised (or not exercised). The Board of Parole itself is benefited by better monitoring and tracking its clemency caseload.
The data currently available — containing only the number of applications received and the amount meeting the "screening requirements" — is not particularly useful. By contrast, Georgia publishes the number of applications received and a detailed breakdown of the types of pardons granted that year.[39] Tennessee citizens should not have to pay to have such data compiled.

Perhaps more staff and resources should be allocated for clemency requests. The bulk of the board’s work is conducting parole hearings to consider whether inmates should be released. Last year the seven-member board oversaw a whopping 16,881 hearings. However, actual board members conducted only 5 percent of those hearings for the most serious cases. The vast majority were instead conducted by a "hearing officer" who then made a recommendation to the board members for a vote.[40]

By contrast, clemency applications are apparently sent directly to board members after processing.[41] A substantive pre-screening process by subordinate officers may assist busy Board Members in reviewing the dozens of annual clemency applications. Currently, staff members only compile additional information if a hearing has already been granted.[42]

Timing guidelines would facilitate prompt consideration of applications. The data I received does not indicate how quickly the board makes decisions to deny an application or to conduct a hearing. However, in one recently-publicized case, two state lawmakers promoting a lingering exoneration request were reportedly "boiling mad and tired of getting the runaround from both the Tennessee Board of Parole and the office of Gov. Bill Haslam."[43]

There may also be legal problems with the way Tennessee reviews clemency requests. While the governor is given sole authority to grant relief, the Board of Parole is statutorily delegated the "duty … to advise with and make recommendations to the governor" with respect to clemency requests.[44] Pursuant to those laws Gov. Haslam has asked the board "to consider and to make non-binding recommendations."[45]

However, the board has sent just 2 percent of applications to the governor’s office for review since 2000. This means that the board has unilaterally denied 98 percent of all applications without the governors even having the opportunity to see them.[46]

This practice would appear to conflict with our constitution’s assignment of clemency power solely to the governor.[47] While the governor could perhaps delegate the denial of pardons to the board, our current executive has not done so. Thus, apparently all applications should be sent to the governor, even if most have unfavorable recommendations.

An interested public or media could put more pressure on our governors to grant clemency more often throughout their time in office. While we sometimes see stories and petitions shortly before a scheduled execution, interest is virtually nonexistent for less-urgent pardon requests. There is simply no practical reason for clemency to be issued primarily (or entirely) at the end of a governor’s term, other than immunization from political fallback. Thus, by removing accountability on clemency decisions, Tennessee’s current practice makes it more likely that we will experience the abuses of power that still echo from the Blanton administration.

A more drastic remedy would be to eliminate the governor from the clemency process altogether, thereby divorcing what perhaps should be an apolitical process from our chief politician. Just as the Board of Parole makes recommendations on applications as they are received, so could the board grant them without waiting on an artificial eight-year cycle.

Several states have implemented such changes. In Georgia, there were "serious questions raised about the handling of pardons by some governors' offices," resulting in a 1943 constitutional amendment to reassign clemency power from the governor to an independent board, whose members are appointed by the governor following confirmation by the senate.[48] In recent years, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles has granted relief in a steady stream rather than sporadic spurts.

While such modification in Tennessee would also require a constitutional amendment, this question is worthy of discussion.

**Conclusion**
An improved judicial system may have reduced the historical justifications of clemency to second-guess the determinations of guilt and an appropriate sentence upon conviction. But our courts do not have a mechanism to decide whether a punishment remains just and appropriate years later.

By providing relief otherwise unavailable through the judiciary, clemency remains an important and essential part of our justice system and the constitutional framework of checks and balances. We should reevaluate how clemency is granted in Tennessee to ensure that it is continuing to satisfy these purposes.

Notes

5. Sheila Burke, "Lawmakers Demand State Pay Man for Wrongful Imprisonment," Associated Press, June 16, 2016, http://bigstory.ap.org/article/3dde4397a2024283b6106ec7b151b83b/lawmaker... (Haslam spokesperson stating: "It is the administration’s policy to consider executive clemency requests after receiving a recommendation from the Board of Probation and Parole."). Data from Gov. Bredesen’s tenure reflects that he considered at least a few requests that had not been submitted to the board.
10. A written list of the names of applicants receiving hearings is also sent to standing committees of the General Assembly as well as the District Attorney General in the district of conviction. Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1100-01-01-16(f), (g).
11. https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/bop/attachments/BOP_Executive_Clemency....
13. I received the data in November 2015, so it is current only though that time. Although I expect more applications have been received and referred to the governor between that time and publication of this article, I have found no evidence of any grants by the governor.
15. It appears Gov. Sundquist did not follow this practice. My request of data beginning in the year 2000 included the final three years of his governorship, which reflected one grant of clemency in 2000-01, four in 2001-02, and six in 2002-03. I have not discussed his clemency practices further in this article because I do not have data from earlier in his term.
16. The State’s Public Records request denial letter, which cited Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-28-119(c) and Rule 11-1-1-.15(1)(a) (6), is on file with the author.
17. https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/bop/attachments/BOP_Pardon_Application....
18. http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/bop/attachments/BOP_Commutation_Application....
19. http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/bop/attachments/BOP_Exoneration_Application.... My office handled three exonerations hearings during the Bredesen administration.
20. The pardon application form provides: "Generally, the need for a pardon will not be found compelling when other provisions of the law provide appropriate relief for the petitioner."
22. Id.

27. The Nashville Bar Association will conduct a three-hour CLE on Gov. Blanton and his administration on Nov. 10, 2016.


34. The judge may stay “execution of the sentence for the amount of time as may be necessary to make application to the executive for a pardon or commutation of punishment.” Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-22-101. See also Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-22-102.


37. https://www.tn.gov/assets/entitites/bop/attachments/BOP_Pardon_Applicatio....


41. https://www.tn.gov/assets/entitites/bop/attachments/BOP_Executive_Clemenc/....

42. Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1100-01-01-.16 (d)(3).

43. Burko, supra note 5.


45. https://www.tn.gov/assets/entitites/bop/attachments/BOP_Executive_Clemenc/....

46. Since inmates are summarily denied review if they are within two years of parole consideration, inmates who are denied parole by the board and given new hearings within that time would never have the opportunity to be heard by the governor under the current policy.


BEN RAYBIN is an associate at Raybin & Weissman PC. He practices primarily criminal defense law, as well as appellate, civil rights and general civil litigation. He is a 2010 graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School, where he was a member of the Law Review. He clerked for Judges Jane Stranch and Gilbert Merritt, both of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Raybin would like to acknowledge the Tennessee Board of Parole for agreeing to compile the clemency data central to this article.

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August 2016 - Vol. 52, No. 8  Cover Story
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Exhibit 28
Division of Business Services  
Department of State  
State of Tennessee  
312 Rosa L. Parks AVE, 6th FL  
Nashville, TN 37243-1102

Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

DANIEL A. HORWITZ, ESQ.  
APT 531  
1803 BROADWAY  
NASHVILLE, TN 37203-2766

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Receipt #: 003635868  
Filing Fee: $20.00  
Payment-Account - #61318 DANIEL A. HORWITZ, ESQ., NASHVILLE, TN  
$20.00

I, Tre Hargett, Secretary of State of the State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that Positive Inner City Kids, Control # 810202 was formed or qualified to do business in the State of Tennessee on 08/17/2015. Positive Inner City Kids has a home jurisdiction of TENNESSEE and is currently in an Active status. The attached documents are true and correct copies and were filed in this office on the date(s) indicated below.

Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

Processed By: Kristen McCoy

The attached document(s) was/were filed in this office on the date(s) indicated below:

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<th>Reference #</th>
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CHARTER
NONPROFIT CORPORATION (ss-4418)

Division of Business Services
Department of State
State of Tennessee
312 Rosa L. Parks AVE, 6th FL
Nashville, TN 37243-1102
(615) 741-2286
Filing Fee: $100.00

The undersigned, acting as incorporator(s) of a nonprofit corporation under the provisions of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation.

1. The name of the corporation is: Positive Inner City Kids

2. Name Consent: (Written Consent for Use of Indistinguishable Name)
   □ This entity name already exists in Tennessee and has received name consent from the existing entity.

3. This company has the additional designation of:

4. The name and complete address of its initial registered agent and office located in the State of Tennessee is:
   CALVIN E BRYANT JR
   4371 SUMMERTIME DR
   NASHVILLE, TN 37207-1063
   DAVIDSON COUNTY

5. Fiscal Year Close Month: December       Period of Duration: Perpetual

6. If the document is not to be effective upon filing by the Secretary of State, the delayed effective date and time is:
   (none)                                      (Not to exceed 90 days)

7. The corporation is not for profit.

8. Please complete all of the following sentences by checking one of the two boxes in each sentence:
   This corporation is a □ public benefit corporation / ☑ mutual benefit corporation.
   This corporation is a □ religious corporation / ☑ not a religious corporation.
   This corporation will ☑ have members / □ not have members.

9. The complete address of its principal executive office is:
   4371 SUMMERTIME DR
   NASHVILLE, TN 37207-1063
   DAVIDSON COUNTY

(Note: Pursuant to T.C.A. §10-7-503 all information on this form is public record.)
The name of the corporation is: Positive Inner City Kids

10. The complete mailing address of the entity (if different from the principal office) is:

11. List the name and complete address of each incorporator:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Business Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incorporator</td>
<td>Calvin E Bryant Jr</td>
<td>4371 SUMMERTIME DRIVE</td>
<td>NASHVILLE, TN 37207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. School Organization: (required if the additional designation of "School Organization - Exempt" is entered in section 3.)
   □ I certify that pursuant to T.C.A. §49-2-611, this nonprofit corporation is exempt from the $100 filing fee required by T.C.A. §48-51-303(a)(1).
   □ This nonprofit corporation is a "school support organization" as defined in T.C.A. §49-2-603(4)(A).
   □ This nonprofit corporation is an educational institution as defined in T.C.A. §48-101-502(b).

13. Insert here the provisions regarding the distribution of assets upon dissolution:
   In the event of dissolution of the Corporation, the residual assets of the Corporation (after all creditors of the Corporation have been paid), shall be distributed to Calvin E Bryant Jr. (President/CEO).

14. Other Provisions:

(Note: Pursuant to T.C.A. §10-7-503 all information on this form is public record.)

Aug 10, 2015 5:25PM

Signature Date

Electronic
Incorporator's Signature

Calvin E Bryant Jr
Incorporator's Name (printed or typed)
Tennessee Corporation Annual Report Form

File online at: http://TNBear.TN.gov/AR
Due on/Before: 04/01/2016 Reporting Year: 2015

Annual Report Filing Fee Due:
$20 if no changes are made in block 3 to the registered agent/office, or
$40 if any changes are made in block 3 to the registered agent/office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOS Control Number:</th>
<th>810202</th>
<th>Date Formed:</th>
<th>08/17/2015</th>
<th>Formation Locale: TENNESSEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(1) Name and Mailing Address: Positive Inner City Kids
4371 SUMMERTIME DR
NASHVILLE, TN 37207-1063

(2) Principal Office Address:
4371 SUMMERTIME DR
NASHVILLE, TN 37207-1063

(3) Registered Agent (RA) and Registered Office (RO) Address: CALVIN E BRYANT JR
4371 SUMMERTIME DR
NASHVILLE, TN 37207-1063

Agent Changed: No
Agent County: DAVIDSON COUNTY

(4) Name and business address (with zip code) of the President, Secretary and other principal officers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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(5) Board of Directors names and business address (with zip code). None, or listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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(6) This section applies to non-profit corporations ONLY.
A. Our records reflect that your non-profit corporation is a public benefit or a mutual benefit corporation as indicated.
   If blank or incorrect, please check appropriately: ___Public    X Mutual
B. If a Tennessee religious corporation, please check here if blank: ___Religious

(7) Signature: Electronic

(8) Date: 06/15/2016

(9) Type/Print Name: Calvin Bryant

(10) Title: President
Tennessee Corporation Annual Report Form

File online at: http://TNbear.TN.gov/AR
Due on/Before: 04/01/2017 Reporting Year: 2016

Annual Report Filing Fee Due:
$20 if no changes are made in block 3 to the registered agent/office, or
$40 if any changes are made in block 3 to the registered agent/office

This Annual Report has been successfully paid for and filed. Please keep this report for your records.
Payment-Credit Card - State Payment Center - CC #: 3706712947

SOS Control Number: 810202
Nonprofit Corporation - Domestic Date Formed: 08/17/2015 Formation Locale: TENNESSEE

(1) Name and Mailing Address:
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4371 SUMMERTIME DR
NASHVILLE, TN 37207-1063

(2) Principal Office Address:
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CALVIN E BRYANT JR
4371 SUMMERTIME DR
NASHVILLE, TN 37207-1063

Agent Changed: Yes__ No__
Agent County: DAVIDSON COUNTY

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B. If a Tennessee religious corporation, please check here if blank: ___Religious

(7) Signature: Electronic
(8) Date: 07/13/2017
(9) Type/Print Name: SABRIYA RASHEED
(10) Title: ACCOUNTANT