

Ballot Proposition I-32-2020
Second Chances, Rehabilitation, and Public Safety Act
Fiscal Impact Summary

A.R.S. § 19-123E requires the Joint Legislative Budget Committee Staff to prepare a summary of 300 words or less on the fiscal impact of voter-initiative ballot measures. Proposition ___ would increase earned release credits for inmates in the state's Department of Corrections (ADC) prisons. The proposition would also provide judges additional discretion when sentencing individuals for nondangerous offenses and limit the definition of a repetitive offender for sentencing purposes.

The proposition has the potential to affect the level of the prison population. The increase in earned release credits could reduce that population. ADC estimates approximately 20,000 inmates would be released early within the first year of implementation. Some of these inmates would otherwise have been released within that first year under current statutory requirements.

In addition, the additional judicial discretion in sentencing for nondangerous offenses could lead to shorter sentences compared to current statutory requirements. The inmate level would also be affected by whether inmates released early reoffend and return to prison.

A decrease in the prison population level would not automatically reduce the Department of Corrections budget. The Legislature and Governor could respond to lower prisoner counts by eliminating prison beds, which in turn, could reduce staffing costs. The response to lower prisoner counts could also be to reallocate existing staff to improve the current ratio of correctional officers to inmates. To the extent that more prisoners are released, ADC will have additional Community Supervision costs on at least a one-time basis.

Since we do not know how many of the 20,000 inmates would have been released in the next year under current statute, we are unable to estimate most of the fiscal impact of the proposition.

The proposition would transfer \$12 million from the Medical Marijuana Fund on a one-time basis for administrative costs and a victims fund.