

February 2, 2015: Legislative Day 9

It is that time again. The 2015 Legislative Session for the Georgia General Assembly began on Monday, January 12th and today is the ninth legislative day.

Every Monday through the end of the session, I will be sending a weekly update on the status of bills that affect access to opportunities for people with criminal records in Georgia. These updates are intended to inform you about what happened in the previous week and how you can be helpful in the current week.

GJP's Annual Day at the Capitol - March 12, 2015

Please register for our Annual Enhance the Chance Lobby Day at the Capitol to be held on Thursday, March 12, 2015 from 8:30am – 1:00pm.

This will be our opportunity to come together and speak to legislators about the difficulty faced by people with criminal records trying to secure jobs, housing, and other opportunities in Georgia and about the negative impact on taxpayers and communities.

Annual Report of the Governor's Council on Criminal Justice Reform is Expected This Week.

The Governor's Council on Criminal Justice Reform will meet this week to finalize its annual report with policy recommendations to the General Assembly. We are expecting the report to include some of the policy recommendations made in our 2015 Policy Agenda.

After the report is published and a bill is introduced, we will be able to determine how many, and to what degree our recommendations have been included, develop strategies to possibly advocate for the inclusion of those that were omitted, and learn if there is any opposition.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the bill and how you may be instrumental in its passage.

Reentry Bills Already Introduced This Year:

- **HB 9** – Ban the Box -- making it unlawful for any employer to ask about an applicant's criminal record on the initial application.
- **HB 134** – Work Opportunity Tax Credit – offering a tax credit to employers that hire people convicted of a felony within one year of release or conviction.

Your ongoing participation and support will be central to successful reforms that will improve the lives of the people we serve and we certainly appreciate it.

Thanks for all you do,

*Marissa McCall Dodson
Policy Director & Attorney*