

February 9th: Legislative Day 12

Annual Report of the Governor's Council on Criminal Justice Reform Released Last Week.

The Governor's Council on Criminal Justice Reform met last Thursday and finalized its annual report with policy recommendations to the General Assembly.

We are excited that the [report](#), released on Friday, includes several of the policy recommendations made in our [2015 Policy Agenda](#). Specifically the report recommends restoring the intent of the First Offender Act, regulating consumer reporting agencies and improving access to state licensing for people with certain criminal records.

For a summary of all of the recommendations made by the Council this year, click [here](#).

We are expecting a bill to be introduced any day that will include the recommendations from the report. We will make sure to keep you updated on the progress of the bill and how you may be instrumental in its passage.

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

If you haven't already done so, 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.

Reentry Bills This Session:

- [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 the passage of 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