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December 6, 2021

Dear friend,

We write to you with exciting news today: **Senate Bill 483 - The Repeal Ineffective Sentencing Enhancements (RISE) Act of 2021 was signed by Governor Newsom and will go into effect on January 1, 2022!** Senate Bill 483 (Allen) builds off of past policy victories to apply the elimination of one-year and three-year sentence enhancements to people currently held in prisons and jails. SB 483 represents a meaningful step towards reducing the harm of overly long and unjust sentences

In 2017 and 2019, California ended the use of sentence enhancements that added three years of incarceration for each prior drug offense (SB 180 Mitchell) and one year for each prior prison or felony jail term (SB 136 Wiener). However, these reforms apply only to cases filed after these bills became law. **SB 483 now authorizes courts to apply the repeals of these sentence enhancements by retroactively reducing the sentences of everyone in prison and jail.**

SB 483 continues to undo the decades of harm perpetrated by the sustaining ideology that excessive sentences deter crime. Sentencing enhancements have not made our communities safer. Instead, long prison and jail sentences are proven to be injurious to system-impacted folks and destabilizing to their families and communities. More generally, they put significant financial burdens on taxpayers and families statewide—each additional year in prison costs over \$112,600 per person. This bill allows a process for the courts to align sentences with the truth of data-driven and lived experiences that show reducing excessive sentences does not erode public safety.¹ Instead, families across California are allowed to be restored.

SB 483 now ensures that no one is serving time based on these enhancements that California has already deemed unfair and ineffective. We invite you to send a message to Governor Newsom thanking him for signing this bill and letting him know **what a difference a year makes** to: Governor's Office, 1313 10th Street, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Sincerely, the EBC SB 483 Team!

Derick Morgan
Policy Associate

Elliot Hosman
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¹ California Committee for the Revision of the Penal Code, 2020 Annual Report and Recommendations

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the RISE Act?

SB 483 authorizes courts to retroactively remove 1-year prison prior and 3-year drug prior enhancements from the sentences of people currently incarcerated in prisons and jails, including people who have “final sentences” and are out of appeals.

Who is eligible for resentencing under the RISE Act?

Anyone who has a 3-year drug prior enhancement or a 1-year prison prior enhancement, unless the 1-year enhancement was imposed for a prior conviction for a sexually violent offense.

How long will it take for the RISE Act to be implemented and for the time to be taken off of people sentences?

The bill requires the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the county correctional administrator of each county to identify those persons in their custody who are serving a sentence that includes one of these enhancements and provide this information to the sentencing court, as specified.

By March 1, 2022	By July 1, 2022	By Oct. 1, 2022	By Dec. 31, 2023
CDCR identifies for the court every person who has served their base term and only has enhancement time left to serve.	CDCR identifies for the court everyone in custody with these 1-year and 3-year enhancements.	Courts recall and resentence every person who has served their base term already.	Courts recall and resentence everyone in custody with these 1-year and 3-year enhancements.

The bill requires this information to be provided by March 1, 2022, for those individuals who are currently serving time for the enhancement and by July 1, 2022, for all others. The bill requires the court, after verifying specified information, to recall the sentence and resentence the individual to remove any invalid sentence enhancements. The bill requires the court to grant this relief to those individuals who have served their base term and any other enhancements and are currently serving the enhancement described above by October 1, 2022, and all other individuals by December 31, 2023.

If you have already served your base term and are only serving enhancement time, it could be worth your while to file a petition for writ of habeas corpus in the superior court in the county of your conviction to request the judge calendar you for a SB 483 RISE Act resentencing hearing given the hardship of delay that you would experience if they were to wait until CDCR sends your name to them in October 2022. We can send you a guide from the Prison Law Office on how to file petitions for writs of habeas corpus.

What do I need to do to be resentenced?

CDCR (or the County Sheriff if you are in county custody) is instructed by the RISE Act to create a list of everyone eligible for RISE Act resentencing in their custody by certain timelines. You will automatically be referred back to court for resentencing based on the timeline above.

Will I automatically go back to court?

The resentencing from this bill is required but a new hearing is not. If you, the judge and district attorney all agree to not have a hearing, the resentencing will happen without you going back to court (or appearing in court remotely, as this bill allows). If the hearing is not waived, the resentencing hearing may be conducted remotely through the use of remote technology.

Will I be appointed an attorney? Yes, the RISE Act requires the court to appoint counsel.

Can the judge decide not to resentence me?

Resentencing has to happen as the enhancement terms will no longer be valid. However judges do have discretion in how much they reduce the sentences. There is a presumption in favor of resentencing in the RISE Act. “Resentencing pursuant to this section shall result in a lesser sentence than the one originally imposed as a result of the elimination of the repealed enhancement, unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that imposing a lesser sentence would endanger public safety. Resentencing pursuant to this section shall not result in a longer sentence than the one originally imposed.”

More on the RISE Act Resentencing Process

The bill prescribes specific considerations for the court in resentencing, such as requiring that the resentencing result in a lesser sentence, unless the court finds *clear and convincing evidence* that a lesser sentence would endanger public safety. This bill also clarifies that if judges adjust an original sentence term outside of the enhancements, they may not impose a term higher than the middle term in a sentencing triad, unless the high term was originally imposed or aggravating factors that have been found true in court and were shared with you.

Does the RISE Act affect people with 5-year prior enhancements?

This bill allows courts to consider other circumstances that may have changed since the original conviction. The court can apply any other changes to judicial discretion or the law that allow for reducing sentences as part of this resentencing – like striking the 5yr prior enhancement (SB 1393, 2017) and gun enhancements (SB 620, 2017). Judges may also consider post-conviction factors like age, time served, disciplinary record, record of rehabilitation and evidence that reflects a diminished risk of future violence or that continued incarceration is no longer in the interest of justice.

Who are the co-sponsors supporting the RISE Act?

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB), CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane



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Immigrant Rights LA), Drug Policy Alliance California, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.