

Explanation of the APPENDIX B spreadsheet showing prison cost savings at 65% Gain-time

My spreadsheet analysis indicates that the **Florida prison population could be reduced by up to 27,000 prisoners within the first year** of the effective date of a new law changing the current 85% gain-time law to 65% and applying it retroactively to all non-life sentenced prisoners. The prison cost savings could be up to \$700 million the first year if calculated at the average \$21,743/ prisoner/year, but will be less than that because the incremental cost savings is less than the average annual cost.

This spreadsheet is a snapshot of the 79,879 prisoners (out of the total of 96,730 prisoners, see chart below)) with valid release dates within the next 30 years in the January 2, 2019 FDOC OBIS data and so excludes those with Life sentences, death sentences, to be set, pending release dates, and those 1,803 prisoners who would not be released within 30 years even at 65% minimum sentence served.

It compares FDOC's release dates under 85% to my calculated release dates at 65% which applies 65% retroactively all non-lifers, even to prisoners with sentences that now do not earn any gain-time at all (like under the 10-20-Life or the PRR laws). **If 65% gain-time applies only to prisoners with non-violent crime convictions, the reduction in the prison population would be reduced about 33% from my estimate.**

As a snapshot on Jan. 2, 2019, this chart does not consider new admits to prison, some 30,000/year, but does show prison cost savings per year as the current 79,879 prisoners are released earlier at 65% instead of 85%. **It does not include the significant future cost savings as the actual length of the time spent in prison for the new admits would be 20% less at 65% gain-time.**

This chart assumed new sentencing laws that apply 65% gaintime retroactively for all would have begun on January 1, 2019, and so would have caused a bump in 2019 releases as it includes those who at 65% would have been released before 2019. **More realistically, due to the logistics of a larger than usual number of prisoners being released, is a January 1, 2021 starting date to apply 65%** to all non-lifer prisoners. However, the cost savings will be similar whenever the starting date of applying 65%.

Prison cost used is \$21,743 for a full year (for the number of prisoners at the end of year) plus half of \$21,743 for those prisoners released during that year, to reflect that the prison cost for a January releasee is less than that for a December releasee. \$21,743 is FDOC's full operating cost per inmate per year in the FDOC 2017-2018 Annual Report. While the Office of Economic and Demographic Research of the Florida Legislature breaks down FDOC's full operating cost per inmate into Dorm/Work Camp Operating costs (about 65% of the total) and Variable Operating costs, they note that Full Operating Costs apply for every 1,500 prison beds. Because this analysis shows a reduction of prisoners/beds of much more than 1,500 prisoners, the full operating costs of \$21,743/prisoner/year is appropriate to use here as a starting point, keeping in mind that the actual total cost savings will be less. FDOC would have to close down about 15 prison camps and transfer prisoners and FDOC employees to the remaining prisons to maximize the prison cost savings of a 65% retroactive gain-time law.

(This spreadsheet by J.J. Daiak; jj@toughenoughoncrime.com)

Number of Prisoners on Jan.2, 2019 by FDOC Release Categories:

Valid release date	79,879
(de facto life)	1,803
Life sentence	13,667
To be set	954
Death sentence	272
Pending	141
<u>Coterminous</u>	<u>14</u>
Grand Total	96,730