

SB 678: Reducing Recidivism & Saving California Millions



SB 678 (2009) is a landmark policy that established, for the first time, a state funding source for adult probation to invest in evidence-based supervision and treatment interventions to lower probation failures and admissions to state prison. It has successfully reduced recidivism rates in California and saved taxpayers over a billion dollars in prison costs. It has successfully improved rehabilitation efforts without increasing crime rates.

KEY RESULTS:



Lower Recidivism:

Felony probation failures have decreased by 23% since the bill's implementation



Significant Cost Savings:

SB 678 has saved California over \$1.1 billion since 2009



Public Safety Maintained:

There has been no significant increase in crime rates due to SB 678



Effective County Incentives:

State savings are reinvested into local programs, funding evidence-based rehabilitation efforts

HOW IT WORKS

County-Based Approach:

Counties are incentivized to invest in proven programs and practices consistent with their county plans to reduce the number of probationers who would otherwise fail resulting in an admission to state prison.

Reinvestment in Rehabilitation:

A portion of state savings is directed back to county probation to fund supervision and programming.

Data-Driven Success:

Evidence-based practices are required to enhance supervision, intervention, and support services for probationers.

WHY IT MATTERS



Reduces overcrowding in state prisons



Saves taxpayer dollars by lowering incarceration costs



Encourages a careful balance of accountability and rehabilitation, improving long-term outcomes for offenders & communities

CALL TO ACTION



Stabilize funding for the continued success of SB 678

SB 678 demonstrates that smart, well-implemented criminal justice policies can lead to better outcomes for individuals and communities. By reducing recidivism and enhancing successful outcomes for those in the justice system, California has created a model that should be expanded and strengthened.