

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3490

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reform Federal prisons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 1996

Mr. TATE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to reform Federal prisons.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND FINDINGS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Federal Prison Reform Act of 1996”.

6 (b) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

7 (1) criminals have become an increasing threat
8 to our personal safety;

9 (2) law-abiding citizens feel less secure and
10 more afraid because of the threat of crime, especially
11 violent crime;

1 (3) unless criminals face serious consequences
2 for their actions, they will continue to threaten our
3 communities;

4 (4) criminals should pay dearly for violating our
5 laws and threatening our communities;

6 (5) Federal prisons must enforce real punish-
7 ment by ending the use of amenities, such as exer-
8 cise equipment, cable television, and pool tables; and

9 (6) prison incarceration should focus on the de-
10 velopment of a meaningful work ethic through hard
11 labor and stress the importance of responsibility,
12 self-control, discipline, and respect for law abiding
13 Americans.

14 **SEC. 2. PRISON REFORM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 301 of title 18, United
16 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the follow-
17 ing:

18 **“§ 4014. Federal prison standards**

19 “(a) EFFECT OF OUTSIDE ACCREDITATION STAND-
20 ARDS.—Each Federal facility for the confinement of per-
21 sons convicted of offenses against the United States shall
22 insofar as practical observe the standards for prisoner liv-
23 ing space and other prison conditions that are established
24 by recognized prison accreditation agencies, but may fail
25 to meet any such standards when, in the judgment of pris-

1 on officials, overcrowding, financial strain, prison size, ab-
2 sence of on-site facilities, or other circumstances make it
3 necessary to do so.

4 “(b) SPECIFIC STANDARDS.—Each Federal prison
5 shall observe the following rules:

6 “(1) MANUAL LABOR.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Prisoners shall spend
8 a minimum of 10 hours per day 6 days a week
9 doing manual labor, such as—

10 “(i) trash collection along Federal
11 highways and on Federal lands, including
12 national parks;

13 “(ii) unskilled manual labor, digging
14 ditches, breaking rocks, manually cutting
15 grass, or other menial work; or

16 “(iii) whatever work is deemed nec-
17 essary and appropriate at the discretion of
18 the warden.

19 “(B) DISPLACEMENT.—Labor under this
20 paragraph shall not result in the displacement
21 of privately employed workers.

22 “(2) CHAIN GANGS.—Chain gangs may be used
23 to satisfy the inmates, but in no case shall inmates
24 currently or previously sentenced for a crime of vio-
25 lence or a sex offense be eligible for a chain gang

1 to satisfy such requirement. For the purposes of car-
2 rying out this paragraph, wardens or administrators
3 of the Federal system may handcuff, shackle, detain,
4 or immobilize inmates as necessary to protect the
5 safety of prison personnel and the public.

6 “(3) NUTRITION.—Federal prisoners shall re-
7 ceive no more than 3 meals per day. Each meal
8 must not exceed minimum nutritional guidelines re-
9 quired under the Constitution.

10 “(4) EXERCISE.—There shall be an area of ap-
11 propriate size for exercise, running, calisthenics, and
12 related activities. Machine exercise equipment, bar-
13 bells, dumbbells, free weights, treadmills,
14 stairmasters, and other exercise equipment is
15 banned. All Federal prison athletic and body build-
16 ing equipment shall be donated by the prison au-
17 thorities to appropriate public agencies, such as
18 community schools or recreation centers.

19 “(5) MEDIA.—Media shall be limited by prison
20 officials to education, vocational training, and other
21 matter that emphasizes standards of morality, re-
22 sponsibility, self-control, and respect for law abiding
23 Americans.

24 “(6) AMENITIES.—Amenities, regardless of the
25 source of their financing, such as catered meals, fea-

1 ture films, lounges, pool tables, hot plates, micro-
2 waves, and radios shall not be provided.

3 “(c) CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be con-
4 strued to permit any violation of the Constitution of the
5 United States.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
7 at the beginning of chapter 301 of title 18, United States
8 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
9 item:

“4014. Federal prison standards.”.

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