

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3655

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 1996

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

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## 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 work requirement of paragraph (1) for  
24 minimum and low security inmates, but in no case  
25 shall inmates currently or previously sentenced for a

1 crime of violence or a sex offense be eligible for a  
2 chain gang to satisfy such requirement. For the pur-  
3 poses of carrying out this paragraph, wardens or ad-  
4 ministrators of the Federal system may handcuff,  
5 shackle, detain, or immobilize inmates as necessary  
6 to protect the safety of prison personnel and the  
7 public.

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

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

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

1           “(6) AMENITIES.—Amenities, regardless of the  
2           source of their financing, such as catered meals, fea-  
3           ture films, lounges, pool tables, hot plates, micro-  
4           waves, and radios shall not be provided.

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

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

“4014. Federal prison standards.”.

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