

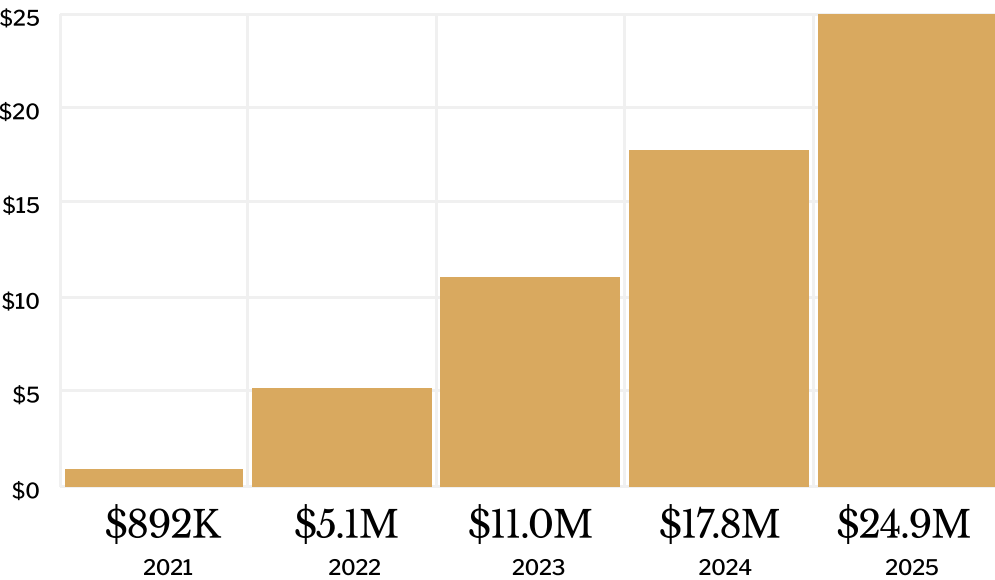
# Reducing Mandatory Minimums for Felonies in IL

## 5-year impact in Illinois

By reducing mandatory minimum sentences for felonies, Illinois could avoid spending a cumulative \$24.9M in incarceration costs, give 7,863 life years back, and decrease the prison population by over 2,300 people in the next five years. The projected impact is based on a reduction in time served for eligible people with felony convictions and assumes a per capita incarceration cost of \$38,000.

### Incarceration cost avoided (cumulative)

In Millions



### Prison population change

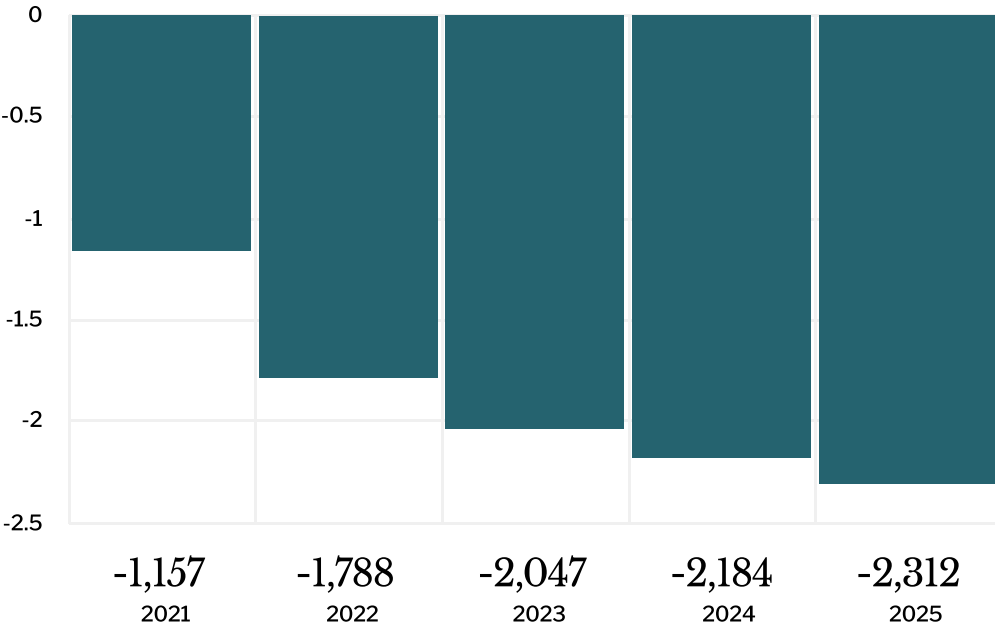
2,312

Fewer people in prison

7,863

Life years back

In Thousands



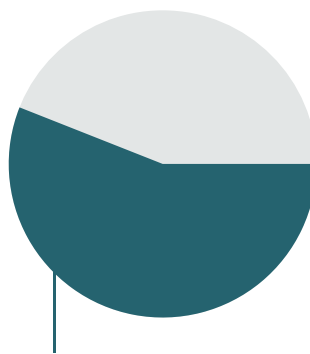
### The opportunity

As of September 2020, Illinois had over 30,000 people in prison. The state spends 80% of its public safety budget on the Department of Corrections — a total cost of \$1.9B. The state still outpaces all but two of its primary seven Midwestern peer states in the rate of people incarcerated each year. Truth-in-sentencing laws, adopted across the country in the late '90s, more than doubled the length of time served by people in Illinois prisons. Furthermore, despite comprising 15% of the population of Illinois, Black people represent 56% of the state's incarcerated population.

Lengthy minimum sentences exacerbate racial disparities within prisons, contributing to the disproportionate number of Black people incarcerated in Illinois. Reducing mandatory minimums would lessen racial disparities while also decreasing the cost of incarceration for the state.



15% of people in IL are Black



56% of people in IL prisons are Black

### Similar policies in other states

#### Louisiana (2017)

Louisiana reduced mandatory minimums for most second and third offenses as part of a ten-bill package in 2017. Over ten years, the reforms are projected to save the state \$262M and reduce the prison and community supervision populations by 10 and 12 percent, respectively.

#### South Carolina (2010)

South Carolina removed the ten-year mandatory minimum sentence for school zone violations, allowed the possibility of probation for certain second and third drug possession convictions, and eliminated mandatory minimum sentences for first convictions of simple drug possession. These reforms were part of a legislative package that was projected to reduce the need for 1,786 new prison beds and create savings of \$241M over a five-year period.