



AJA Montly Report - September 2022

Last Updated: October 14, 2022

Washington Update

With Labor Day and August Recess behind us, Congress came back in full force in September to pass several pieces of legislation through the election. In particular, the House passed several bills related to mental health, infrastructure, and other items.

The most significant development was the passage of a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government until December 16, 2022. This avoided a government shutdown and bought more time for Congress to negotiate an agreement on a final FY23 appropriations bill after the election.

While the House had confirmed that they would go on recess for all of October, there had been some speculation about what the Senate would do. After passage of the CR, both the House and Senate adjourned until the November election. The upcoming election is expected to be heavily contested between the two parties, leading to leadership's decision to send Members back home to campaign for the month of October.

Senate Hearing on Deaths in Corrections Facilities

On September 20th, the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations held a hearing titled, "Uncounted Deaths in America's Prisons and Jails: How the Department of Justice Failed to Implement the Death in Custody Reporting Act." The panel heard testimony from family members of those who died in custody, a law professor, the Government Accountability Office, and the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

The hearing was chaired by Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA), who is the sponsor of S.4284, the Family Notification of Death, Injury, or Illness in Custody Act. The hearing mostly focused on the Department of Justice's record of enforcement and implementation of the federal Death in Custody Reporting Act. However, there was plenty of discussion about and highlighting of deaths in local jails and corrections facilities. The conversation did not specifically dive into S.4284, but the hearing highlights that the issue is a topic of importance to Sen. Ossoff and hints that it is likely he will remain focused on the issue heading into the new Congress in 2023.

Appropriations

Congress passed a continuing resolution that funds the government at the FY22 spending levels through December 16th, 2022. Lobbyit expects that Congress will consider and pass a funding bill for the remainder of FY23 before the end of the calendar year.

Board of Directors Meeting

Lobbyit briefed the AJA Board of Directors meeting on our government relations activities during the second half of 2022 and the outlook of key pieces of legislation heading into 2023. We discussed the next-of-kin notification bill, legislation regarding inmate call rates, mental health legislation, legislation dealing with Opioid Use Disorder, and early planning for a Washington visit in the first quarter of 2023.

Bills by Issue

[American Jail Association \(16\)](#)

Bill Number

HR 120

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Crime
Terrorism And Homeland Security 2021 03 01

Status

In House

Title

SIMARRA Act

Introduction Date: 2021-01-04

Description

Stop Infant Mortality And Recidivism Reduction Act of 2021 or the SIMARRA Act This bill directs the Bureau of Prisons to establish a pilot program for incarcerated women and their children born during incarceration to reside together in a separate prison housing unit. It sets forth inmate eligibility criteria and program participation requirements.

Primary Sponsors

Sheila Jackson Lee

Bill Number

HR 176

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Crime
Terrorism And Homeland Security 2021 03 04

Status

In House

Title

Restricting the Use of Solitary Confinement Act

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jason Ortega at Feb 5, 2021, 7:32 PM
This bill restricts the use of solitary confinement for inmates in federal custody, including by requiring hearings and other procedures for an inmate to contest placement in solitary confinement.

Description

Restricting the Use of Solitary Confinement Act This bill imposes restrictions on the use of solitary confinement for inmates in federal custody. Among the restrictions, the bill prohibits placement in solitary confinement for nondisciplinary reasons; it limits the duration of such placement; and it provides an administrative review process for inmates to contest such placement.

Introduction Date: 2021-01-04

Primary Sponsors

Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bill Number

HR 955

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Health
2021 02 09

Status

In House

Title

Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-02-08

Description

Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021 This bill allows Medicaid payment for medical services furnished to an incarcerated individual during the 30-day period preceding the individual's release. The Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Payment and Access Commission must report on specified information relating to the accessibility and quality of health care for incarcerated individuals, including the impact of the bill's changes.

Primary Sponsors

Paul Tonko

Bill Number

HR 994

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Crime
Terrorism And Homeland Security 2021 04 23

Status

In House

Title

Justice is Not For Sale Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-02-11

Description

Justice is Not For Sale Act of 2021 This bill prohibits private for-profit entities from operating confinement facilities (e.g., prisons) or providing electronic monitoring of released persons at the federal, state, and local levels. The bill also establishes various requirements related to the standards of detention and availability of services at confinement facilities. The bill provides for the establishment of * limits on the fees and charges for financial services (e.g., money transfer services), * caps on the rates charged for communications services, * detention standards and oversight requirements related to the detention of noncitizens, and * community-based alternatives to the detention or separation of family units apprehended under immigration authorities.

Primary Sponsors

Raul Grijalva

Bill Number

HR 1384

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On Crime
Terrorism And Homeland Security 2021 04 28

Status

In House

Title

Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-02-25

Description

Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act of 2021 This bill removes the requirement that a health care practitioner apply for a separate waiver through the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to dispense certain narcotic drugs (e.g., buprenorphine) for maintenance or detoxification treatment (i.e., substance use disorder treatment). Further, a community health aide or community health practitioner may dispense certain narcotic drugs for maintenance or detoxification treatment without registering with the DEA if the drug is prescribed by a health care practitioner through telemedicine. It preempts state laws related to licensure for this activity. The bill also directs the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to conduct a national campaign to educate health care practitioners and encourage them to integrate substance use disorder treatment into their practices.

Primary Sponsors

Paul Tonko

Bill Number

HR 1480

Last Action

Received In The Senate And Read Twice And
Referred To The Committee On Health
Education Labor And Pensions 2021 05 13

Status

In Senate

Title

HERO Act

Introduction Date: 2021-03-02

Description

Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act or the HERO Act
This bill establishes a series of programs relating to the behavioral health of law enforcement officers, first responders, 9-1-1 operators, and other public safety officers and health care providers. The programs include * a public safety officer suicide-reporting system at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, * a grant program for peer-support behavioral health and wellness programs within fire departments and emergency medical services agencies, and * a grant program for behavioral health and wellness programs for health care providers.

Primary Sponsors

Ami Bera

Bill Number

HR 1686

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee For Indigenous
Peoples Of The United States 2021 05 07

Status

In House

Title

Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-03-09

Description

Examining Opioid Treatment Infrastructure Act of 2021 This bill requires the Government Accountability Office to report on the availability of and unmet need for substance use disorder treatment and recovery services, including for specified populations. The report must also address barriers to real-time reporting of drug overdoses at the federal, state, and local levels.

Primary Sponsors

Bill Foster

Bill Number

HR 2489

Last Action

Referred To The Subcommittee On
Communications And Technology 2021 04 14

Status

In House

Title

Martha Wright Prison Phone Justice Act

Introduction Date: 2021-04-13

Description

Martha Wright Prison Phone Justice Act This bill establishes requirements related to certain charges, practices, classifications, or regulations in connection with confinement facility (i.e., jail or prison) communications services. Specifically, the bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish maximum rates and charges that a provider of prison communications services may charge for such services. The bill provides interim rate caps until the FCC establishes such rates and charges. The bill requires a provider of prison communications services to assess all charges for communications on a per-minute basis for the actual duration of the communication, and it prohibits a provider from charging a per-communication or per-connection charge. A provider also may not charge an ancillary service charge except in certain circumstances. Further, the bill prohibits a provider from assessing a site commission, which is a payment or donation made to certain entities that operate or oversee a confinement facility.

Primary Sponsors

Bobby Rush

Bill Number

HR 3172

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On
Financial Services 2021 05 13

Status

In House

Title

HELPER Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-05-13

Description

Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder Act of 2021 or the HELPER Act of 2021 This bill establishes a program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide mortgage assistance to law enforcement officers, elementary and secondary school teachers, firefighters, or other first responders. Specifically, these individuals may be eligible for a one-time mortgage on a primary family residence with no down payment and no monthly mortgage insurance premium.

Primary Sponsors

John Rutherford

Bill Number

HR 6296

Last Action

Referred To The House Committee On The
Judiciary 2021 12 16

Status

In House

Title

Family Notification of Death, Injury, or Illness in Custody Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-12-16

Description

Family Notification of Death, Injury, or Illness in Custody Act of 2021 This bill requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop policies and procedures for notifying next-of-kin or other emergency contacts in the event of the death, or serious illness or serious injury, of an individual in custody. The bill requires DOJ to implement the policies and procedures at its detention agencies. Further, the bill requires DOJ to distribute model policies and procedures to state, territorial, tribal, and local detention agencies.

Primary Sponsors

Karen Bass

Bill Number

S 285

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee
On Finance 2021 02 08

Status

In Senate

Title

Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-02-08

Description

Medicaid Reentry Act of 2021 This bill allows Medicaid payment for medical services furnished to an incarcerated individual during the 30-day period preceding the individual's release. The Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Payment and Access Commission must report on specified information relating to the accessibility and quality of health care for incarcerated individuals, including the impact of the bill's changes.

Primary Sponsors

Tammy Baldwin

Bill Number

S 1046

Last Action

Held At The Desk 2021 08 03

Status

In House

Title

Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-03-25

Description

Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act of 2021 This bill revises and reauthorizes through FY2026 grants for residential substance use disorder treatment programs at state and local correctional and detention facilities. Among the revisions, the bill * replaces statutory references to substance abuse with substance use disorder, * specifies that the term residential substance use disorder treatment program includes a medication-assisted treatment program, * requires the chief medical officer or other staff overseeing a program to complete training on the science of addiction and the latest research and clinical guidance on treating substance use disorders in criminal justice settings, and * allows people who are awaiting trial or in pretrial detention to participate in the programs.

Primary Sponsors

John Cornyn

Bill Number

S 1541

Last Action

Committee On Commerce Science And
Transportation Ordered To Be Reported With
An Amendment In The Nature Of A Substitute
Favorably 2022 03 22

Status

In Senate

Title

Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-05-10

Description

Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2021 This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that charges for payphone services, including advanced (e.g., audio or video) communications services in correctional institutions, are just and reasonable.

Primary Sponsors

Tammy Duckworth

Bill Number

S 1821

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee
On Finance 2021 05 25

Status

In Senate

Title

Humane Correctional Health Care Act

Introduction Date: 2021-05-25

Description

Humane Correctional Health Care Act This bill allows states to cover inmates of public institutions under Medicaid. The Government Accountability Office must report on specified information relating to the health of inmates and the effects of Medicaid coverage.

Primary Sponsors

Cory Booker

Bill Number

S 2592

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee
On The Judiciary 2021 08 03

Status

In Senate

Title

Correctional Facility Disaster Preparedness Act of 2021

Introduction Date: 2021-08-03

Primary Sponsors

Tammy Duckworth

Bill Number

S 4284

Last Action

Read Twice And Referred To The Committee
On The Judiciary 2022 05 19

Status

In Senate

Title

Family Notification of Death, Injury, or Illness in Custody Act of 2022

Introduction Date: 2022-05-19

Primary Sponsors

Jon Ossoff

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