

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

BILL SUMMARY

Note: This form must be completed and accompany all Bills submitted for consideration by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate.

DELEGATE NAME: Henry Cascella

DELEGATE STATE: Rhode Island

NAME OF BILL: Non-Violent Felons' Voting Rights Bill

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BILL: This bill seeks to regulate the disenfranchisement of non-violent felons across the nation. Disenfranchisement of non-violent felons differs greatly from state to state, and it needs to be regulated by a national system.

To Be Completed By
The Clerk Of The Senate

BILL NO.

SB-35

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION SENATE

IN THE SENATE OF AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Senator **Henry Cascella** of **Rhode Island** introduced the following Bill, which was read twice and referred to the following American Legion Boys Nation Senate Committee:

a Bill

1 to regulate disenfranchisement for felons...

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3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION SENATE ASSEMBLED, THAT

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6 Legislative Findings:

7 Disenfranchisement for felons in the USA varies greatly from state to state to state. Some
8 states such as Florida and Kentucky completely disenfranchise convicted felons for the rest of
9 their lives, no matter the severity or nature of their offenses. While other states such as Maine
10 and Vermont have much more lenient policies in regards to voting rights. Currently according to
11 the ACLU approximately 5.85 million Americans are disenfranchised because of a felony
12 conviction. Voting rights in regards to felons must be regulated in order to bring that number
13 down to acceptable levels. This rampant disenfranchisement prevents non-violent felons from
14 becoming truly reintegrated into society after successfully completing their sentences. I firmly
15 believe that it is time that a nationwide system for regulating the right to vote for non-violent
16 felons be introduced, to ensure that those who are truly rehabilitated are able to become
17 productive members of the national electorate.

18 Definitions:

19 Disenfranchisement: Disenfranchisement is the state of having one's right to vote revoked.

20 Felon: A person who has committed a crime punishable by more than one year of
21 incarceration.

22 Felony: According to US Code Title 18, Part II, Chapter 207 a felony is a crime that is
23 punishable by more than one year in prison.

24 Non-Violent Felon: A convicted felon who's crime was punishable by more than a year in
25 prison, but did not result in the injury and or death of another person.

26 Violent Felon: A convicted felon who's crime was punishable by more than a year in prison, and
27 resulted in the death and or injury of a person, or the attempt thereof.

28 Misdemeanor: A crime punishable by fines and/or jail time of up to one year.

29 Section I:

30 Whereas there is no limited period of disenfranchisement for non-violent felons that have
31 completed their sentences,

32 We resolve that a five year period of disenfranchisement be established for all non-violent
33 felons upon their release from prison. Probationary periods and/or parole do not affect the
34 disenfranchisement period (for example, if a probationary period is six years long, the
35 disenfranchisement period will remain five years in duration).

36 Section II:

37 Whereas there are no set nationwide penalties for repeat offenders in regards to
38 disenfranchisement,

39 We resolve that the five year period of disenfranchisement upon release, mentioned in section
40 I, be extended based on the actions of the convicted non-violent offender.

41 The period of disenfranchisement will be extended by two years based on these guidelines:

42 ~ The non-violent felon commits a misdemeanor offense.

43 ~ The two year disenfranchisement extensions can AND will be compounded upon each other
44 for each misdemeanor committed.

45 ~ The two year extension period for the committing of misdemeanors will only be enforced if the
46 misdemeanors are committed during the original five year disenfranchisement period.

47 If the released non-violent felon commits another felony offense, be it violent or non-violent,
48 they will be permanently disenfranchised for the rest of their lives.