

**JJ&RA – JUVENILE REHABILITATION**  
**Minimum Release - Youth to Parole**  
**2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET**



Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	(8.1)	(8.1)	(8.1)
GF-State	(\$676,000)	(\$676,000)	(\$1,352,000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$676,000)</b>	<b>(\$676,000)</b>	<b>(\$1,352,000)</b>

**REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY**

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration (JJRA) is submitting the following reduction option that would reduce staffing at the residential facilities by releasing youth at their minimum length of stay for those released to parole. By implementing this reduction, JJRA expects to reduce the residential caseload by approximately 18 and eliminate 8.1 FTEs. This reduction would likely impact youth with a high risk to re-offend.

**REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL**

Juvenile offenders are sentenced by the courts to a minimum and maximum length of stay. The Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) has the authority to designate the release date for each offender within the sentence range provided by the Courts. The caseload reduction will be achieved through modification of JR policy to allow some higher risk youth to be released on or closer to their minimum release date. As part of a budget reduction in the 2012 Supplemental Budget, JR expanded release at minimum sentence for some youth. This impacted youth who had a low-to-moderate risk to reoffend. The moderate risk youth were 8.5 percent of the JR population and had a 50 percent risk to re-offend. This reduction option would expand the minimum sentence release policy to youth with a higher risk to reoffend. Youth who are categorized as high risk are 64 percent more likely to re-offend. This reduction may also impact youth who are at a very high risk to reoffend in order to meet the reduction target. The very high risk youth are 80 percent more likely to reoffend.

Releasing higher risk youth early may impact their recommended dosage of treatment. JR will continue to prioritize treatment based on youth with the highest need. Releasing additional youth, specifically higher risk youth, closer to their minimum release date may likely increase the juvenile recidivism rate. JR will conduct a study of this policy change to determine the effects on recidivism.

**STAKEHOLDER IMPACT**

This option could negatively impact the community as youth with more than a 60 percent chance to re-offend would be released into their community on or closer to their minimum release date. Shortening their length of stay and



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potentially reducing their dosage of treatment may impact the youth's readiness for transition and re-entry to the community.



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