



For Immediate Release  
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Headline: **Time is running out as House Judiciary stalls passing of “Good Times” repeal.**

One day following the Senate passage of repeal of Good Times bill, (7112) it stalled in the House Judiciary and was recommended for further study. With recommendation from Judiciary leadership, etiquette became priority as those testifying were told, “the polite thing to do was to wait upon response from the CJOC, Criminal Justice Oversight Commission upon its completion of last meeting and decisions in early April”.

The very commission assigned the primary task to address cost effectiveness and overcrowding issues will be likely in determining early release issues of possibly 500 individuals who pose a significant risk to society.

The time has come for the CJOC to address the broader implications regarding safe communities other than cost effectiveness.

The issue of Good Times has sparked controversy between legislators, Attorney General’s Office, local and state police, Advocacy groups, Public Defenders, ACLU, Rhode Island Parole and Probation, Brotherhood of Correctional Officers, Rhode Island residents, and most importantly also least considered the victims impacted.

Early during the hearing a letter was delivered from the governor acknowledging concern of constitutionality issue when taking good times earned from incarcerated. He cited a previous ex post facto case. Many were concerned this was a decree of a possible future veto.

The reality of unconstitutionality to repeal good time credit is weak in that the repeal will be applied from the point after sentencing is passed thus moving forward with actions taken.

NO POST GOOD TIME CREDIT will be taken from inmates who have accrued since their sentencing at the ACI.

Good Times is applied whenever the prisoner has successfully completed such program, they: with the consent of the (Director), and upon recommendation by the Assistant Director and Rehabilitative Services, be deducted from the term or terms of the prisoner.

SEE ASC WHITE SHEET "GOOD TIMES"

This generous Rhode Island goodtime package considered cost effective, has proven to be catalyst in several unintended consequences befalling victims in this state.

Prison decisions are not being made based on security, custody, and control but for money considerations.

Good Times needs to be utilized for its therapeutic benefits for those intended and capable of rehabilitation. Continuing on the current course, we will see an agenda inclusive of early releases of moderate to high risk, repeat offenders, and more victims impacted throughout the state.

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