IMPACT FOR EQUITY
Combating injustice together

Retroactivity

EXPLAINER

What is a retroactive law? A law that applies to people *currently* sentenced as well as people incarcerated after its passage.

When we refer to "retroactive laws," we are discussing laws that *benefit* people who are *currently* incarcerated. These reforms allow us to identify and fix laws that are unjust or fail to acknowledge that people inside of prisons have the capacity to grow and change. It is only fair that these changes apply to everyone affected by these injustices, whether they were sentenced before or after a new law is passed.

Has Illinois ever passed retroactive laws before?

OF COURSE!

Public Act 103-0330. Expanded Sentencing Credits to people incarcerated who participated in certain programs

Public Act 102-0494. The Joe Coleman Medical Release Act introduced an early release mechansim for people incarcerated with terminal illnesses

Public Act 103-0968. Expanded resentencing opportunities for people incarcerated who didn't get to show evidence they experienced gender-based violence

Have other states or the federal government passed retroactive laws before?

OF COURSE!

Federal First Step Act. Expanded Sentencing Credits to people currently incarcerated

Nevada AB 267. Retroactive Parole for juveniles sentenced with life sentences

Oklahoma HB 1269. Resentencing opportunity for certain drug crimes