

Crime Bill -
State by State

Reno sees clear sailing for crime bill

By Jane M. Meddis
USA TODAY

On the eve of a crucial House vote, Attorney General Janet Reno foresees passage of legislation she believes will cut crime and the growing fear of crime.

"If we all work together, we can fashion a crime bill that can have a real impact, and I'm very optimistic of that," Reno said Tuesday.

She also said there are no show-stopper provisions in the bill that might doom it — nothing comparable to President Clinton's insistence that health-care legislation contain universal coverage provisions.

"We haven't had to face that," she said. "I think we can work through all of these issues."

The bill's ban on assault-style firearms, a continuing source of controversy among federal lawmakers, remains a key element.

"That's going to be one of the critical issues that we face, and we're going to be willing to support it every step of the way."

On another controversial subject, Reno said the Justice Department will continue to focus on charges by some people of racial bias in capital punishment.

The administration agreed to exclude a provision in the bill allowing use of statistics in an attempt to show racial discrimination in death-penalty cases. But Reno pledged the department would take "whatever steps are possible and appropriate to address this issue" in federal cases.

Reno indicated the centerpiece of the crime bill continues to be money for community policing, including a provision to hire 100,000 law enforcement officers nationwide. "The bill really goes to the heart of policing," she said.

In community policing, officers generally are taken out of patrol cars and put on walking beats.

The theory is that the better police know neighborhoods, the better they can prevent crime rather than react to it.

Reno, prominent in administration efforts to publicize and pass the bill, said she was deeply involved in the bill's evolution.

"I wanted to make sure that when we promised something we had the dollars to deliver," she said.

"My role has been to try and make sure that it is a sound, substantive bill that's balanced and thoughtful."

Benefits of the crime bill

The crime bill awaiting final passage by Congress carries money for every state to hire police officers, build prisons, fight violence against women, provide drug treatment for prisoners and carry on crime-prevention programs. States also will be eligible to apply for money in the bill designated for drug courts, criminal records-keeping, youth training, anti-gang activities, sports leagues and youth organizations. Figures for the District of Columbia were not available. What the bill earmarks for each state: (Money figures are in millions of dollars.)

	Police officers	Prisons	Law grants	Violence on women	Drug care in prisons	Prevention	Total
Ala.	1,700	\$56	\$38.3	\$23.0	\$4.4	\$21.0	\$150
Alaska	600	\$12	\$14.8	\$8.0	\$2.3	\$1.2	\$54
Ariz.	1,600	\$44	\$39.9	\$18.0	\$4.2	\$16.0	\$144
Ark.	1,200	\$28	\$26.0	\$16.0	\$3.4	\$13.0	\$100
Calif.	10,200	\$475	\$292.7	\$139.0	\$20.0	\$105.0	\$900
Colo.	1,500	\$35	\$33.5	\$21.0	\$4.0	\$10.0	\$134
Conn.	1,500	\$32	\$30.0	\$21.0	\$4.0	\$6.0	\$130
Del.	650	\$14	\$7.9	\$8.9	\$2.4	\$1.5	\$60
Fla.	4,600	\$230	\$104.5	\$64.0	\$10.0	\$40.0	\$410
Ga.	2,500	\$77	\$52.9	\$35.0	\$6.0	\$27.0	\$225
Hawaii	800	\$12	\$12.6	\$11.4	\$2.7	\$2.3	\$70
Idaho	800	\$12	\$16.2	\$10.3	\$2.6	\$3.8	\$68
Ill.	4,100	\$175	\$94.1	\$58.0	\$9.0	\$39.0	\$360
Ind.	2,200	\$48	\$42.6	\$31.0	\$5.0	\$16.0	\$195
Iowa	1,300	\$20	\$26.5	\$18.6	\$3.6	\$7.5	\$115
Kan.	1,200	\$25	\$23.1	\$17.0	\$3.5	\$7.0	\$110
Ky.	1,600	\$30	\$35.2	\$23.0	\$4.2	\$19.0	\$140
La.	1,800	\$64	\$49.3	\$24.0	\$4.5	\$31.0	\$155
Maine	800	\$10	\$20.5	\$11.8	\$2.7	\$3.0	\$72
Md.	2,000	\$73	\$42.5	\$27.0	\$4.8	\$10.0	\$175
Mass.	2,300	\$69	\$57.7	\$33.0	\$5.6	\$13.0	\$205
Mich.	3,400	\$110	\$80.6	\$48.0	\$7.6	\$35.0	\$300
Minn.	1,800	\$27	\$36.3	\$25.7	\$4.6	\$11.0	\$160
Mo.	2,100	\$63	\$39.6	\$28.0	\$5.0	\$18.0	\$180
Miss.	1,300	\$22	\$26.9	\$17.0	\$3.5	\$21.0	\$110
Mont.	700	\$9	\$13.5	\$9.0	\$2.5	\$3.0	\$60
Neb.	900	\$15	\$17.8	\$13.0	\$3.0	\$4.0	\$83
Nev.	850	\$20	\$17.5	\$11.5	\$2.7	\$2.7	\$75
N.H.	800	\$9	\$9.2	\$11.5	\$2.7	\$1.4	\$75
N.J.	2,800	\$77	\$70.2	\$41.0	\$6.6	\$16.0	\$255
N.M.	900	\$26	\$24.5	\$13.0	\$3.0	\$10.0	\$82
N.Y.	6,100	\$300	\$187.7	\$87.0	\$13.0	\$63.0	\$540
N.C.	2,600	\$70	\$51.9	\$36.0	\$6.0	\$21.0	\$230
N.D.	630	\$8	\$11.2	\$9.0	\$2.4	\$2.0	\$55
Ohio	3,900	\$94	\$86.0	\$55.0	\$8.5	\$37.0	\$345
Okla.	1,400	\$34	\$32.5	\$20.0	\$3.9	\$14.0	\$125
Ore.	1,400	\$29	\$33.5	\$19.0	\$3.7	\$8.0	\$120
Pa.	4,200	\$83	\$92.2	\$59.0	\$9.0	\$33.0	\$370
R.I.	750	\$14	\$11.0	\$10.0	\$2.6	\$2.0	\$66
S.C.	1,600	\$56	\$37.1	\$21.5	\$4.0	\$16.0	\$140
S.D.	650	\$9	\$15.2	\$9.0	\$2.4	\$3.0	\$58
Tenn.	2,000	\$58	\$36.5	\$27.0	\$5.0	\$20.0	\$180
Texas	6,000	\$215	\$151.5	\$82.0	\$12.0	\$90.0	\$525
Utah	1,000	\$15	\$21.0	\$13.0	\$3.0	\$6.0	\$88
Vt.	600	\$9	\$11.5	\$8.7	\$2.3	\$1.2	\$54
Va.	2,400	\$41	\$51.8	\$34.0	\$5.7	\$15.0	\$215
Wash.	2,000	\$45	\$46.5	\$28.0	\$5.7	\$13.0	\$180
W. Va.	1,000	\$12	\$31.3	\$14.0	\$3.0	\$9.0	\$88
Wis.	2,000	\$27	\$40.5	\$28.0	\$5.0	\$14.0	\$180
Wyo.	600	\$10	\$11.8	\$7.6	\$2.3	\$1.4	\$50

Source: The White House

Crime rate squeezes judges

The number of judges is increasing, but not at nearly the same rate as the dramatic increases in the crime rate, the number of law enforcement personnel and prison populations.

Number of judges up 9%

Judges who presided over felony cases:

1985	8,778
1992	9,602

Law enforcement personnel up 17%

Number of law enforcement officers:

1985	641,380
1992	748,830

Prison population up 75%

People in state and federal prisons:

1985	502,752
1992	880,656

Crime rate up 36%

Crimes per 100,000 people:

1985	556.6
1992	757.5

Source: FBI's Uniform Crime Reports

USA TODAY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1994 • USA TODAY