

Changes coming to sentences in California drug offenses?

Written by Australian Business

September 27, 2013 /**24-7PressRelease**/ -- There are many people who struggle with their drug addictions each day. They have seen their lives ruined because of their dependencies, and they know that they need professional help in order to break the cycle of addiction. But it can be hard to know who to ask for this assistance, or where to go to find the help that they need.

Unfortunately, many of these people often find themselves in the criminal justice system after being charged with a [drug offense](#) . If the offender has large quantities of the drugs, this can mean that the potential penalties that they may be facing could be very significant.

California has a major problem with the overcrowding of its prisons. It does not want to allot so much valuable space to those people who have been charged of these non-violent drug offenses, so it is constantly looking for new ways of handling these types of crimes. A new bill has been sent to the governor that would substantially reduce the possible prison time that these people would receive.

Currently, penalties for drug crimes involving certain drugs, such as cocaine and heroin, can result in jail sentences for anywhere from 16 months to possibly three years behind bars, depending upon the charges that are handed down. The new bill would make the maximum sentence imposed only one year, which could help reduce some of the overcrowding going on in California prisons.

When charged with one of these crimes, it is important to examine all of the potential options that may be available. This may even include a treatment program that can help these offenders get their lives back on track. These options will depend on the crimes being charged, and also the past criminal history of the offender.

The consequences of a drug crimes conviction can last for many years, even after all prison time has been served. Any future criminal activities will mean much stronger penalties if convicted, and you may also struggle to be able to get your life back on track. Employers may be reluctant to trust you enough to give you a chance to succeed, and you might find yourself unable to pursue your life's goals.

If you have been charged with a drug crime, speak to an experienced criminal defense attorney as soon as possible. An attorney will be able to discuss the situation with you, and help you understand the charges and evidence in your case. You may not know what you have to do at this time to protect yourself, and an attorney can ensure that your interests remain protected

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throughout the entire proceeding, including trial, if necessary.

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