

# **CRIME BILL -- DOLLARS FOR IOWA, 1995 - 2000**

## **(Revised 8/22/94)**

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

- \* **100,000 POLICE** -- Guaranteed minimum of \$44 million -- more than 500 police officers at \$75,000 per officer.
  - \*\* Given Iowa's share of the population and the additional \$6.5 billion in discretionary dollars, Iowa should expect a total of about \$115 million over the next 6 years.
  - \*\* Of the total, up to 85% can be used to hire about 1,300 police officers. At least 15% -- \$17 million -- can be used to help pay the training, overtime and administrative costs of implementing community policing in Iowa.
- \* **PRISONS & BOOT CAMPS** -- \$26 million for prison grants, including military-style boot camp prisons. An additional estimated \$26 million is possible if Iowa meets the "Truth in Sentencing" target of second-time violent offenders serving 85% of their sentences.
- \* **BYRNE ENFORCEMENT GRANTS** -- \$1 billion in the Trust Fund will help continue full funding for these grants, including Iowa's \$5 million annual share.
- \* **RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS** -- \$6.5 million for drug and crime enforcement in Iowa's rural areas.
- \* **DISCRETIONARY GRANTS** -- Iowa's law enforcement agencies and courts may apply for:
  - \*\* \$1,000,000,000 -- Drug Court programs (treatment backed up by drug testing and certain punishment for non-violent offenders currently on probation.) Estimated \$11 million for Iowa -- enough for about 5,600 offenders over six years.
  - \*\* \$320,000,000 -- Criminal record systems (Brady Law), communications equipment, and DNA testing; and
  - \*\* \$200,000,000 -- Judges, prosecutors and public defenders (estimated \$2 million for Iowa).

## **PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

- \* **LOCAL PARTNERSHIP ACT** -- \$14 million in direct grants to cities and towns in Iowa. Wide discretion permits local governments to use the dollars for education, drug treatment, and jobs programs.
- \* **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT** -- \$8.8 million in grants for police, prosecutors and victims services; \$3.6 million in grants for shelters for battered women and their children; and Iowa can apply for a share of \$500 million in several discretionary programs.
- \* **AFTERSCHOOL AND IN-SCHOOL "SAFE HAVENS" FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN** -- \$6.9 million for non-profit, community-based organizations in Iowa.
- \* **DRUG TREATMENT IN PRISONS** -- \$2.3 million to treat up to an estimated 2,100 drug-addicted prisoners in Iowa prisons over the next 6 years.
- \* **LOCAL CRIME PREVENTION BLOCK GRANT** -- \$2.4 million in direct grants to cities and towns for various programs, including:
  - \*\* **ANTI-GANG GRANTS** -- to give young people positive alternatives to gangs, such as academic and athletic after-school activities, mentoring programs and scout troops.
  - \*\* **MIDNIGHT SPORTS LEAGUES** -- to give at-risk youth nightly alternatives to the streets, and for the U.S. Olympic Committee to develop supervised sports and recreation programs in high-crime areas.
  - \*\* **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS** -- to establish clubs in low-income housing communities, and to encourage police officers to live in those communities.
  - \*\* **TRIAD** -- for partnerships between senior citizens groups, police chiefs and sheriffs to combat crimes against elderly Americans.
  - \*\* **POLICE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN** -- for partnerships between law enforcement and social service agencies to fight crimes against children, and for the creation of youth councils to combat crime.
  - \*\* **VISITATION CENTERS** -- for supervised centers for divorced or separated parents to visit their children in "safe havens" when there is a history or risk of physical or sexual abuse.

- \*\* YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTERS -- to develop more effective education, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment and rehabilitation programs for violent juveniles, including alternatives to school suspension and juvenile court diversion.**
- \*\* SAFE SENIORS CORRIDORS -- to provide older Americans with enhanced protection from crime by increasing police presence and crime prevention activities by community groups.**
- \*\* HOPE IN YOUTH -- to create Family Outreach Teams composed of youth, parents and school-parent organizers for mentoring, community organizing and peer counseling.**
- \* DISCRETIONARY GRANTS -- State agencies and non-profit organizations may apply for a share of:**
  - \*\* MODEL INTENSIVE GRANTS -- \$626 million for intensive, comprehensive and flexible aid to areas, urban and rural, hardest hit by crime and violence.**
  - \*\* NATIONAL COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP -- \$270 million to extend lines of credit of up to \$2 million to community development corporations to provide small, low-interest loans to businesses in low-income neighborhoods.**
  - \*\* GANG RESISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ("GREAT") -- \$45 million for school-based programs to teach children to resist peer pressure and understand the negative impact of gangs and drugs.**
  - \*\* URBAN RECREATION AND AT-RISK YOUTH -- \$4.5 million to expand recreational facilities in high-crime areas.**



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
PAUL H. WIECK II, COMMISSIONER

March 31, 1995

Mark Filak  
Domestic Policy Council, Room 213  
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Filak;

Enclosed you will find the *1993 Incident-Based Iowa Uniform Crime Reports* and the subsequent press release. The press release was distributed electronically on March 3, 1995.

If you have any further questions about the press release, or the Reports, please contact me at the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Field Services Bureau, Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa 50319 (515) 281-8494.

Sincerely,

Martha Coco  
Statistical Research Analyst

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

INCIDENT-BASED

IOWA UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS

1993 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Iowa's estimated total index crime rate decreased nearly 3 percent between 1992 and 1993. From a 1992 rate of 3957.1 offenses per 100,000 estimated population Iowa's rate decreased to 3846.4 offenses per 100,000 estimated population in 1993. However, Iowa's ranking among the 50 states stayed the same, remaining at 42nd place in both 1992 and 1993. The total crime index is made up of the violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault along with the property crimes of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft, the state with the highest crime rate ranks number 1 while the state with the lowest crime rate ranks fiftieth.

When comparing Iowa with other states in 1993, the estimated violent crime rates show that twelve other states had lower rates than Iowa while in 1992 the estimated rates show that only 9 states had lower rates. Although Iowa's violent crime rate has been rising in 7 of the last 10 years, the state still enjoys a favorable position compared to the region and the U.S. rates. The 1993 Iowa rate of 325.5 was 29 percent less than the 1993 regional rate of 459.3 and 56 percent less than the national rate of 746.1 offenses per 100,000 population.

During 1993, Iowa had an estimated property crime rate of 3521 offenses per 100,000 population which gave the state a ranking of 38th among the 50 states. This rate was 12 percent less than the regional rate of 3995.1 and 26 percent less than the U.S. rate of 4736.9

Along with the Iowa, regional, national comparisons, the 1993 *Incident-Based Iowa Uniform Crime Reports* contain actual data on the number of incident and summary based offenses, adult and juvenile arrests, and clearances by law enforcement jurisdictions. The Iowa, regional and national comparison 1993 data is taken from the U.S. Department of Justice, FBI publication called *Crime in the United States*.

The data in this report is based on incidents submitted by the law enforcement agencies throughout Iowa to the Iowa Department of Public Safety. (This data is forwarded to the FBI to be included in national publications.) In an effort to inform all Iowans about crime, the Department, in conjunction with the law enforcement agencies of Iowa, presents this *The 1993 Incident-Based Iowa Uniform Crime Reports*.

Copies of the UCR may be obtained from Martha Coco, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Wallace State Office Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa 50319 (515) 281-8494.

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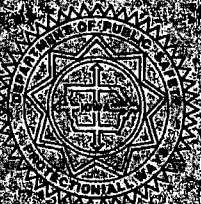
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**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**INCIDENT-BASED**

**IOWA UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS**

**1993**



OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-00)

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# of pages ► 3

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

DATE: 3.17.95PAGE: 12A

# Federal three-strikes law getting its first test in Iowa

By Sam Vincent Meddis  
USA TODAY

The federal three-strikes law, defying predictions that it would throw a big net over small-time criminals, gets its first real test next week in the robbery trial of a violence-prone ex-convict.

Since the controversial measure went into effect last September, only seven people have been arrested and targeted to receive a mandatory life sentence because of previous convictions for violent crimes.

The charges against them include robbery and kidnapping, a new Justice Department survey shows.

The first of the seven, Thomas Lee Farmer, goes on trial Tuesday in Iowa. The law also has been invoked in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Arkansas.

President Clinton, who promoted the three-strikes law in his State of the Union address last year, has insisted that it be limited to the most violent criminals, says Rahm Emmanuel, White House adviser on crime issues.

But critics say the law is an example of overkill because federal sentencing guidelines already provide for tougher punishments based on a defendant's previous offenses.

"There was already an opportunity to effectively sanction people in terms of what they did before," says Alan Chaset, chairman of the sentencing committee of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Justice Department officials say their survey shows the new law is working the way supporters promised.

As an example, they point to Farmer, 43, the first defendant to face possible sentencing under the three-strikes law.

Prosecutors say he has a record dating to 1979 that includes convictions for murder, armed robbery and murder conspiracy.

During a November grocery robbery in Waterloo, he urged an accomplice to "shoot him, shoot him" when a clerk failed to move fast enough, prosecutors say. Before any shots were fired, the robbers fled because they heard over their police scanner that patrol cars were being called to the scene.

"This is the kind of case the law was written for," says Stephen Rapp, U.S. attorney in Cedar Rapids.

If Farmer is convicted — and if a judge decides his record is violent enough to warrant sentencing under the

three-strikes law — he faces life in prison without parole.

If Farmer were tried and convicted in state court for the same crime, he'd likely be free in about eight years, prosecutors say.

Tom Ferguson, Black Hawk County prosecutor, says the Farmer case "screamed at you" to be turned over for federal prosecution.

Even before the three-strikes measure, sentencing practices across the nation grew substantially stiffer over the past decade. Prison populations have nearly tripled since 1980, from about 330,000 inmates to more than 1 million last year.

But the idea of throwing three-time violent offenders behind bars for life really caught on last year, according to a report from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

First to coin the term was Washington state, which enacted a three-strikes law in 1993. By last October, 13 states had passed similar measures, the report says.

Helping fuel the laws' popularity was public outrage over crimes like the California kidnapping and murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas in 1993 by an ex-convict with a history of violence.

Nationally, about 45% of all inmates have had three or more sentences to prison or probation prior to their current incarceration.

But just as critics have lashed out at the federal law, state three-strike laws have come under fire.

Complaints flared in California when a 27-year-old repeat offender was sent to prison for 25 years to life earlier this month for stealing a slice of pepperoni pizza.

Elizabeth Sernel, former president of the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice, calls her state's three-strikes measure "a broad, sweeping, huge-scope law."

"It encompasses people whose second and third convictions do not involve violence, and that is the problem."

Whatever the national trend, and despite the claims of critics, federal prosecutors intend to employ the law sparingly, says U.S. Attorney Paula Casey in Little Rock.

"It's not something we will use every day."

## LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

The federal three-strikes-you're-out law, passed last year, lets prosecutors seek a life sentence without parole on a third violent felony charge if a person previously was:

► Convicted in a U.S. court of two or more violent felonies.

► Convicted of one or more violent felonies and one or more serious drug offenses.



DATE: 8.17.95

PAGE: 12A

## 6 other defendants wait to hear fate

In addition to Thomas Lee Farmer in Iowa, six other defendants face sentences of life in prison if they are convicted and sentenced under the federal three-strikes law passed last year.

► Robert Maxwell, 40, charged with kidnapping and two counts of carjacking in Robinson Township, Pa., in October. Previous convictions include armed robbery and arson in 1973, and rape and other sexual offenses in 1981.

► Benny Wicks, 44, charged with the October armed robbery of a bank in Clay County, Ill. Previous convictions include robbery charges in 1983 and 1992.

► Levanial Dwight Snyder, 47, charged in the December armed robbery of a restaurant, armed bank robbery, armed robbery of a tobacco store and carjacking in Memphis. Previous convictions include armed robbery in 1971 and bank robbery in 1977.

► Sammie Lee Penniman, 42, charged with the armed robbery of a Memphis bank in October. Previous convictions include three robberies between 1973 and 1976, and assault with intent to rob in 1976.

► Terrell Dickerson, 31, charged with a January carjacking in Little Rock. Previous convictions include two aggravated robberies in 1988.

► Brent Mosley, 38, charged in the same January carjacking in Little Rock. Previous convictions include armed robbery in 1974, armed bank robbery in 1977 and aggravated robbery in 1982.



**SNYDER:** Charged with armed robbery



**PENNIMAN:** Bank robbery charge