

ALEC EXPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda-underwritten by global corporations-- includes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With **ALEC EXPOSED**, the Center for Media and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

ALEC's Corporate Board --in recent past or present

- AT&T Services, Inc.
- centerpoint360
- UPS
- Bayer Corporation
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Energy Future Holdings
- Johnson & Johnson
- Coca-Cola Company
- PhRMA
- Kraft Foods, Inc.
- Coca-Cola Co.
- Pfizer Inc.
- Reed Elsevier, Inc.
- DIAGEO
- Peabody Energy
- Intuit, Inc.
- Koch Industries, Inc.
- ExxonMobil
- Verizon
- Reynolds American Inc.
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- Salt River Project
- Altria Client Services, Inc.
- American Bail Coalition
- State Farm Insurance

For more on these corporations, search at www.SourceWatch.org.

& MEETINGS

DID YOU KNOW? Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "unison" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. **DO YOU?**

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Alternative Method of Court Appearances Act

Did you know the NRA--the National Rifle Association--was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

Summary

This bill would designate certain crimes as crimes with bail restrictions. Those crimes would include offenses such as murder, kidnapping, burglary, arson, drug-related crimes, racketeering and robbery. Under the bill, persons charged with a crime with bail restrictions would only be permitted to post bail in one of these forms: full cash; a surety bond executed by a licensed corporation, or a bail bond secured by real property.

Model Legislation

Section 1. {Title} This act shall be known and may be cited as: An ACT concerning bail for persons charged with certain offenses.

Section 2. {Definitions} The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(A) "Crime with bail restrictions" means a crime under any of the following:

- (1) Murder
- (2) Manslaughter
- (3) Death by Auto
- (4) Assault
- (5) Recklessly Endangering Another Person
- (6) Terroristic Threats
- (7) Kidnapping
- (8) Criminal Restraint
- (9) Criminal Coercion

- (10) Sexual Assault
- (11) Criminal Sexual Contact
- (12) Robbery
- (13) Carjacking
- (14) Arson and Related Offenses
- (15) Causing or Risking Widespread Injury or Damage
- (16) Burglary
- (17) Theft by Extortion
- (18) Endangering the Welfare of Children
- (19) Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent Person
- (20) Threats and Other Improper Influence in Official and Political Matters
- (21) Obstructing Administration of Law or Other Governmental Function
- (22) Resisting Arrest; Eluding Officer
- (23) Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution
- (24) Escape
- (25) Implements of Escape; Other Contraband
- (26) Bail Jumping; Default in Required Appearance
- (27) Corrupting or Influencing a Jury
- (28) Riot; Failure to Disperse
- (29) Placing Signs or Displays that Imply Threats of Violence
- (30) Desecrating Religious or Sectarian Premises
- (31) Possession of Weapons for Unlawful Purposes
- (32) Weapons Training for Illegal Activities
- (33) Drug Related Crimes

(34) Racketeering

(35) Violation of a Protective Order

Section 3. {Declaration of policy and rules} The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

(A) A person charged with a crime with bail restrictions may post the required amount of bail in the form of:

(1) Full cash;

(2) A surety bond executed by a duly licensed bail surety; or,

(3) A bail bond secured by real property situated in this state, fully unencumbered and equal to the amount of bail undertaken plus \$5,000.00.

(B) A court may designate the amount of bail without designating the form in which the bail may be posted in any combination of the forms authorized in subsection (A) of this section.

(C) When bail is posted in the form of a bail bond secured by real property, the owner of the real property shall file:

(1) an affidavit containing a legal description of the real property, and that the same is unencumbered;

(2) a professional appraisal, acceptable to the court, of the current market value of the property.

(D) Nothing herein is intended to preclude a court from releasing a person on the person's own recognizance when the court, upon its own and for itself, determines that the person is deserving.

(E) When a person charged with a criminal offense posts bail, \$10.00 of the total amount required to be posted as bail shall be paid in cash as a nonrefundable bail fee.

(1) The bail fee shall be forwarded to the appropriate office.

(2) The bail fee shall not be taken from new or additional bail posted pending an appeal of a conviction if a bail fee has already been taken from bail posted prior to that conviction.

Section 4. {Severability clause.}

Section 5. {Repealer clause.}

Section 6. {Effective date.}

About Us and ALEC EXPOSED. The Center for Media and Democracy reports on corporate spin and government propaganda. We are located in Madison, Wisconsin, and publish www.PRWatch.org, www.SourceWatch.org, and now www.ALECExposed.org. For more information contact: editor@prwatch.org or 608-260-9713.

**Center for Media
and Democracy's
quick summary:**

This bill is a handout to the commercial bail-bond industry, and would prevent courts and law enforcement from exploring genuine "alternative methods of court appearances." Under the bill, for all of the crimes listed, the only way the accused can be released is through paying a bondsman (which usually requires a nonrefundable payment of 10% of the total bail) or posting 100% of the bail in cash or property. This would prohibit courts, counties, or states from exploring pre-trial release options such as those that include supervised release and efforts to include necessary drug, alcohol, or social interventions. Additionally, payment to a bail bondsman would be the most likely option if this bill were passed -- judges would not set bail at the amount they think appropriate to make sure the person returns to court, but at 10X that amount, knowing that the accused will be released by paying a bondsman 10% of the bail.