Individuals put in prison for a crime they did not commit are now eligible for compensation in Michigan. For every year in which a person was wrongfully incarcerated, he or she will be eligible for $50,000 from the state. Individuals have 18 months upon being released from custody to seek compensation via the Michigan Court of Claims. SB 291, signed into law in late 2016, directs Michigan’s treasurer to establish a wrongful-imprisonment compensation fund.

Two thousand people in the United States have been exonerated over the past 28 years, according to the University of Michigan’s National Registry of Exonerations. That total includes 431 individuals in the 11-state Midwest — with the number of exonerations ranging from a low of two in North Dakota to a high of 185 in Illinois. (Michigan has the second-highest total, 68.) This year, bills to compensate the wrongfully imprisoned have been introduced in at least two Midwestern states: Indiana (HB 1062 and HB 1067) and Kansas (SB 125). Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin already have these laws in place.

By:
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Attachment
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Stateline Midwest: March 2017 1.64 MB

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Michigan, Midwest, compensate wrongfully convicted and imprisoned

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