
DIGEST

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Patricia Smith

HB No. 822

Abstract: Provides for the eligibility of persons sentenced for certain drug offenses for evaluation by the La. Risk Review Panel.

Present law provides for the La. Risk Review Panel within the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections. Requires the Risk Review Panel to evaluate persons convicted of a crime who are confined in prison. Provides that persons convicted of a crime of violence, a sex offense where the victim is under the age of 18, or certain persons sentenced as habitual offenders are not eligible for review by the Risk Review Panel. Further provides that persons convicted of a controlled dangerous substance violation are not eligible for review unless the offense involves simple possession, distribution or possession with the intent to distribute less than 28 grams of cocaine, distribution or possession with the intent to distribute less than one pound of marijuana, or the person has served at least seven years of a life sentence for a controlled dangerous substance violation.

Proposed law retains present law except it provides that persons sentenced under any other violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substance Law who have served the mandatory minimum sentence in actual custody for the offense, or one-half of the sentence imposed, whichever is less shall also be evaluated by the Risk Review Panel.

(Amends R.S. 15:574.22(G))