

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 491

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

PAROLE: Provides for parole eligibility

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 15:574.4(L), relative to parole eligibility of juvenile offenders; to provide
3 conditions for parole eligibility for persons serving life sentences; and to provide for
4 related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:574.4(L) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §574.4. Parole; eligibility; juvenile offenders

8 * * *

9 L. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person serving
10 a life sentence of imprisonment shall be eligible for parole consideration pursuant
11 to the provisions of this Section if all of the following conditions have been met:

12 (1) The person is a first-time offender who has not been convicted of a crime
13 of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2 or a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541.

14 (2) The offender has served at least twenty-five years of the sentence
15 imposed.

16 (3) The offender has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the
17 thirty-six consecutive months prior to the parole hearing date. A "major disciplinary
18 offense" is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the Department of Public
19 Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Adult Offenders.

- 1 (4) The offender has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred
2 hours of prerelease programming in accordance with R.S. 15:827.1.
- 3 (5) The offender has completed substance abuse treatment as applicable.
- 4 (6) The offender has obtained or completed at least one of the following:
- 5 (a) A literacy program.
- 6 (b) An adult basic education program.
- 7 (c) A job skills training program.
- 8 (d) A high school equivalency certificate.
- 9 (7) The offender has obtained a low-risk level designation determined by a
10 validated risk assessment instrument approved by the secretary of the Department
11 of Public Safety and Corrections.
- 12 (8) The offender has completed a reentry program to be determined by the
13 Department of Public Safety and Corrections.
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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 491 Original

2026 Regular Session

Knox

Abstract: Provides parole eligibility for individuals with life sentences who meet certain requirements.

Present law provides for parole eligibility.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that any person serving a life sentence is eligible for parole consideration if all of the following conditions have been met:

- (1) The person is a first-time offender who has not been convicted of a crime of violence or a sex offense.
- (2) The offender has served at least 25 years of the life sentence.
- (3) The offender has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the 36 consecutive months prior to the parole hearing date.
- (4) The offender has completed the mandatory minimum of 100 hours of prerelease programming.
- (5) The offender has completed substance abuse treatment if applicable.

- (6) The offender has obtained or completed at least one educational or job skills training program.
- (7) The offender has obtained a low-risk level designation determined by a validated risk assessment instrument approved by the secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C).
- (8) The offender has completed a reentry program to be determined by the DPS&C.

(Adds R.S. 15:574.4(L))