
DIGEST

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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))