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 DIGEST

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SB 201 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Morris

Present law provides for a hearing to determine parole eligibility for certain juvenile offenders.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law authorizes a district attorney, within 180 days after the indictment, to file a notice of intent to seek a sentence of life imprisonment without possibility of parole for a juvenile offender who is indicted on or after Aug. 1, 2026, for second degree murder.

Proposed law provides for parole eligibility or ineligibility based on either judicial determination or the failure of the district attorney to timely file a notice of intent.

Present law limits the hearing to the sole purpose of determining whether the sentence shall be imposed with or without parole eligibility.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the court to state for the record the considerations taken into account and the factual basis for its determination.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that sentences imposed without parole eligibility and determinations that an offender is not entitled to parole eligibility should normally be reserved for the worst offenders and the worst cases.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Proposed law requires a reviewing court to give paramount consideration to the information considered by the trier of fact that rendered the original sentence.

Proposed law prohibits the reviewing court, in cases where a juvenile offender was originally sentenced to death after the court considered but rejected youth as a mitigating factor, from substituting its judgment for the judgment of the trier of fact unless the trier of fact clearly abused its discretion and could not have reasonably reached that result.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 878.1(A) and (D))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the engrossed bill:

1. Authorize a district attorney, within 180 days after the indictment, to file a notice of intent to seek a sentence of life imprisonment without possibility of parole for a juvenile offender who is indicted on or after Aug. 1, 2026, for second degree murder.
2. Provide for parole eligibility or ineligibility based on either judicial determination or the failure of the district attorney to timely file a notice of intent.

3. Make technical changes.