

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 201

2026 Regular Session

Morris

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

JUVENILE JUSTICE. Limits juvenile offender parole eligibility in resentencing court. (8/1/26)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Applies present law regarding parole eligibility for juvenile offenders to proposed law to provide that certain offenders will be eligible for parole consideration.
4. Makes technical changes.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

DIGEST

SB 201 Engrossed

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Present law provides that a district attorney may, within 180 days after the indictment, 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, 2017, for first degree murder. Present law also provides that, if a district attorney files such notice, a hearing will be conducted after conviction and before sentencing to solely determine if the offender will be eligible for parole.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that a district attorney may, within 180 days after the indictment, 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 also provides that, if a district attorney files such notice, a hearing will be conducted after conviction and before sentencing to solely determine if the offender will be eligible for parole.

Present 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.

Proposed law applies present law to proposed law.

Proposed law otherwise 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.

Present law provides that a person who was convicted of first or second degree murder and who was under the age of 18 years when the offense was committed and whose indictment was prior to Aug. 1, 2017, will be eligible for parole consideration if the court determines that he is eligible pursuant to other present law.

Proposed law provides that a person who was convicted of first or second degree murder and who was under the age of 18 years when the offense was committed and whose indictment was either prior to Aug. 1, 2017, or on or after Aug. 1, 2026, will be eligible for parole consideration if the court determines that he is eligible pursuant to other proposed law.

Proposed law applies present law to proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 878.1(A) and (D) and R.S. 15:574.4(G)(1)(intro para))