

ACT No. 425

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 280

BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:574.4(B)(2), (D)(1), (E)(1), (F)(1), (G)(1), and (J)(1), relative
3 to parole eligibility of juvenile offenders; to provide relative to duplicative language
4 with respect to qualifications for parole; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:574.4(B)(2), (D)(1), (E)(1), (F)(1), (G)(1), and (J)(1) are hereby
7 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §574.4. Parole; eligibility; juvenile offenders

9 * * *

10 B.

11 * * *

12 (2) Except as provided in R.S. 15:574.22, any person serving a life sentence,
13 with or without the benefit of parole, who has not been convicted of a crime of
14 violence as defined by R.S. 14:2(B), a sex offense as defined by R.S. 15:541, or an
15 offense, regardless of the date of conviction, which would constitute a crime of
16 violence as defined by R.S. 14:2(B) or a sex offense as defined by R.S. 15:541, shall
17 be eligible for parole consideration as follows:

18 (a) If the person was at least eighteen years of age and under the age of
19 twenty-five years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall be
20 eligible for parole consideration if all of the following conditions have been met:

1 (i) The person has served at least twenty-five years of the sentence imposed.

2 ~~(ii) The person has obtained a low risk level designation determined by a~~
 3 ~~validated risk assessment instrument approved by the secretary of the Department~~
 4 ~~of Public Safety and Corrections. The person has met the requirements listed in~~
 5 ~~Subparagraphs (A)(4)(b) through (f) of this Section.~~

6 ~~(iii) The person has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the~~
 7 ~~thirty-six consecutive months prior to the parole hearing date. A major disciplinary~~
 8 ~~offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the Department of Public~~
 9 ~~Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Adult Offenders.~~

10 ~~(iv) The person has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred~~
 11 ~~hours of pre-release programming in accordance with the provisions of R.S.~~
 12 ~~15:827.1, if such programming is available at the facility where the offender is~~
 13 ~~incarcerated.~~

14 ~~(v) The person has completed substance abuse treatment, if applicable and~~
 15 ~~such treatment is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.~~

16 ~~(vi) The person has obtained or completed at least one of the following:~~

17 ~~(aa) A literacy program.~~

18 ~~(bb) An adult basic education program.~~

19 ~~(cc) A job skills training program.~~

20 ~~(dd) A high school equivalency certificate.~~

21 (b) If the person was at least twenty-five years of age and under the age of
 22 thirty-five years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall be
 23 eligible for parole consideration if all of the following conditions have been met:

24 (i) The person has served at least twenty years of the sentence imposed.

25 ~~(ii) The person has obtained a low risk level designation determined by a~~
 26 ~~validated risk assessment instrument approved by the secretary of the Department~~
 27 ~~of Public Safety and Corrections. The person has met the requirements listed in~~
 28 ~~Subparagraphs (A)(4)(b) through (f) of this Section.~~

1 ~~(iii) The person has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the~~
 2 ~~thirty-six consecutive months prior to the parole hearing date. A major disciplinary~~
 3 ~~offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the Department of Public~~
 4 ~~Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Adult Offenders.~~

5 ~~(iv) The person has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred~~
 6 ~~hours of pre-release programming in accordance with the provisions of R.S.~~
 7 ~~15:827.1, if such programming is available at the facility where the offender is~~
 8 ~~incarcerated.~~

9 ~~(v) The person has completed substance abuse treatment, if applicable and~~
 10 ~~such treatment is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.~~

11 ~~(vi) The person has obtained or completed at least one of the following:~~

12 ~~(aa) A literacy program.~~

13 ~~(bb) An adult basic education program.~~

14 ~~(cc) A job skills training program.~~

15 ~~(dd) A high school equivalency certificate.~~

16 (c) If the person was at least thirty-five years of age and under the age of
 17 fifty years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall be eligible for
 18 parole consideration if all of the following conditions have been met:

19 (i) The person has served at least fifteen years of the sentence imposed.

20 (ii) ~~The person has obtained a low risk level designation determined by a~~
 21 ~~validated risk assessment instrument approved by the secretary of the Department~~
 22 ~~of Public Safety and Corrections. The person has met the requirements listed in~~
 23 ~~Subparagraphs (A)(4)(b) through (f) of this Section.~~

24 ~~(iii) The person has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the~~
 25 ~~thirty-six consecutive months prior to the parole hearing date. A major disciplinary~~
 26 ~~offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the Department of Public~~
 27 ~~Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Adult Offenders.~~

1 ~~(iv) The person has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred~~
 2 ~~hours of pre-release programming in accordance with the provisions of R.S.~~
 3 ~~15:827.1, if such programming is available at the facility where the offender is~~
 4 ~~incarcerated.~~

5 ~~(v) The person has completed substance abuse treatment, if applicable and~~
 6 ~~such treatment is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.~~

7 ~~(vi) The person has obtained or completed at least one of the following:~~

8 ~~(aa) A literacy program.~~

9 ~~(bb) An adult basic education program.~~

10 ~~(cc) A job skills training program.~~

11 ~~(dd) A high school equivalency certificate.~~

12 (d) If the person was at least fifty years of age at the time he was sentenced
 13 to life imprisonment, he shall be eligible for parole consideration if all of the
 14 following conditions have been met:

15 (i) The person has served at least ten years of the sentence imposed.

16 (ii) ~~The person has obtained a low risk level designation determined by a~~
 17 ~~validated risk assessment instrument approved by the secretary of the Department~~
 18 ~~of Public Safety and Corrections. The person has met the requirements listed in~~
 19 ~~Subparagraphs (A)(4)(b) through (f) of this Section.~~

20 ~~(iii) The person has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the~~
 21 ~~thirty-six consecutive months prior to the parole hearing date. A major disciplinary~~
 22 ~~offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the Department of Public~~
 23 ~~Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Adult Offenders.~~

24 ~~(iv) The person has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred~~
 25 ~~hours of pre-release programming in accordance with the provisions of R.S.~~
 26 ~~15:827.1, if such programming is available at the facility where the offender is~~
 27 ~~incarcerated.~~

28 ~~(v) The person has completed substance abuse treatment if applicable and~~
 29 ~~such treatment is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.~~

