

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 526 (SB 523)

2026 Regular Session

Mizell

Existing law provides that any offender sentenced to life imprisonment is not eligible to apply to the Board of Pardons for a pardon or commutation of sentence for a period of 15 years after being sentenced. Existing law further provides that any offender sentenced for either a crime of violence or a sex offense is not eligible to apply for a pardon or commutation of sentence for a period of 25 years after sentencing.

New law allows an offender who was a documented victim of domestic abuse, human trafficking, or sexual assault when he committed the offense for which he was convicted, to immediately apply for a pardon or commutation of sentence unless:

- (1) He was sentenced to life imprisonment for a crime of violence, in which case he will be eligible to apply five years after sentencing.
- (2) He was convicted of any of the following:
  - (a) An offense that requires registration as a sex offender.
  - (b) An offense resulting in a sentence of death.
  - (c) Certain offenses relating to terrorism.

New law otherwise retains existing law.

Existing law provides grounds the court will consider when exercising its discretion pertaining to suspension of sentence or probation.

New law retains existing law and provides that the court will also consider the defendant's status as a victim of domestic abuse, human trafficking, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, or sexual assault and whether there was a rational, causal, and temporally proximate connection between the defendant's victimization and his committing the instant offense.

New law directs the Board of Pardons to review its existing rules, regulations, and procedures for consideration of clemency applications submitted in accordance with new law and to adopt rules, regulations, or procedures as necessary to implement new law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 15:572.4(D) and C.Cr.P. Art. 894.1(B)(33); adds C.Cr.P. Art. 894.1(B)(34))