Lopinto (HB 416) **Act No. 285**

Prior law provided that a person, otherwise eligible for parole, convicted of a first felony offense shall be eligible for parole consideration upon serving one-third of the sentence imposed, and upon conviction of a second felony offense, such person shall be eligible for parole consideration upon serving one-half of the sentence imposed.

Existing law further provides that a person convicted of a third or subsequent felony offense shall not be eligible for parole. Further provides that a person convicted of a crime of violence and not otherwise ineligible for parole shall serve at least 85% of the sentence imposed before being eligible for parole.

New law amends prior law to provide that upon a first felony conviction, the offender shall be eligible for parole upon serving 25% of the sentence imposed, unless the offender has been convicted of a crime of violence, has been convicted of a sex offense, has been sentenced as a habitual offender, or is otherwise ineligible for parole.

Nothing in new law shall prevent an offender from reapplying for parole in accordance with law.

Provides that any savings realized by the provisions of new law shall be appropriated by the La. Legislature to DPS&C for reimbursements for the costs of incarceration of offenders awaiting probation and parole revocation hearings, for other local corrections programs that reduce recidivism, for expanded treatment programs, and for expanded probation and parole services.

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 15:574.4(A)(1))