
DIGEST

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Smith

HB No. 543

Abstract: Provides for parole eligibility for certain offenders sentenced to life imprisonment if certain conditions are met.

Present law provides that no prisoner serving a life sentence shall be eligible for parole consideration until his life sentence has been commuted to a fixed term of years.

Proposed law amends present law and provides that, notwithstanding present law, any person serving a life sentence, with or without the benefit of parole, who has not been convicted of a crime of violence, a sex offense, or an offense, regardless of the date of conviction, which would constitute a crime of violence or a sex offense, shall be eligible for parole consideration if certain conditions are met.

Proposed law provides for conditions of parole eligibility for persons sentenced to life imprisonment, including the following:

- (1) If the person is at least 18 years of age and under the age of 25 years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall serve at least 25 years of the sentence imposed.
- (2) If the person is at least 25 years of age and under the age of 35 years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall serve at least 20 years of the sentence imposed.
- (3) If the person is at least 35 years of age and under the age of 50 years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall serve at least 15 years of the sentence imposed.
- (4) If the person is at least 50 years of age at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall serve at least 10 years of the sentence imposed.

(Amends R.S. 15:574.4(B))