
DIGEST

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Katrina Jackson

HB No. 1255

Abstract: Provides relative to parole for persons convicted of crimes of violence, creates the Programs to Reduce Recidivism Fund, and provides for the administration of, distribution from, and appropriation of monies into the fund.

Present law provides for parole eligibility for offenders convicted of a crime of violence upon serving 85% of the sentence imposed.

Proposed law amends present law to provide parole eligibility for these offenders upon serving 75% of the sentence imposed. Provides for prospective application of this provision of proposed law to apply only those persons convicted on or after the effective date of proposed law.

Present law provides that a unanimous vote of the committee on parole is required to grant parole for any person convicted of a crime of violence.

Present law provides that the committee on parole may grant parole with a majority vote for non-violent, non-sex offenders when certain conditions are met.

Proposed law amends present law to authorize the granting of parole by majority vote for a person convicted of a crime of violence when the conditions set forth in present law are met, including completion of at least 100 hours of a reentry preparation program as provided by present law.

Proposed law repeals the provision of present law which prohibits persons convicted of a crime of violence from being eligible to participate in the reentry preparation program and thus making such persons eligible for the granting of parole by majority vote.

Proposed law provides that these proposed law provisions regarding the majority vote and eligibility to participate in reentry preparation programs for persons convicted of a crime of violence are prospective and are only applicable to persons convicted on or after the effective date of proposed law.

Proposed law creates the Programs to Reduce Recidivism Fund which shall be administered by the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Criminal Justice and the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections for the following purposes:

- (1) To defray the operational expenses of probation and parole and reentry initiatives.

- (2) To assist in establishing and reimbursing the operational expenses of local corrections rehabilitative programs.

Provides that any savings realized from the proposed law reduction in the amount of time a person convicted of a crime of violence is required to serve prior to being eligible for parole consideration shall be appropriated into the fund.

(Amends R.S. 15:574.2(C)(2)(a) and 574.4(B)(1); Adds R.S. 15:824.2; Repeals R.S. 15:827.1(E)(3)(b))