



Proposed law provides that any of these stipulations may be eliminated or increased by reduction to writing by the supervising parole officer. Any violations of the above stated stipulations will subject the veteran to disciplinary sanctions. Any veteran whose parole is revoked cannot reapply under this statute for a period of no less than five years.

Proposed law provides that a veteran who is committed to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to serve a life sentence will be eligible for consideration for transfer to a transitional facility upon serving 15 years of imprisonment in actual custody and upon attaining the age of 45, provided that any veteran aged 65 or older who has served at least 10 years of their term in actual custody will be eligible for consideration for transfer to a transitional facility.

Proposed law provides that the veteran must adhere to the following stipulations while at the transitional facility:

- (1) The provisions of present law.
- (2) Submit to electronic monitoring while at the transitional facility and will be responsible for the cost of such electronic monitoring.
- (3) Agree in writing to written conditions of his location tracking and crime correlation based electronic monitoring supervision.
- (4) Continue as a member of an approved 12-step program or an approved equivalent by the supervising parole officer.
- (5) Meet once a month with an authorized veteran transition counselor.
- (6) Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid community service to any veteran or military program, to include the Veterans Court program.
- (7) If identified as a sex offender, adhere to the provisions of present law.
- (8) Serve as a mentor of the Veterans Court program.

Proposed law provides that after the successful completion of the initial five years at the transitional facility, the veteran will be given a favorable recommendation for computation of sentence. If the veteran's recommendation is approved for computation of sentence, the veteran will be transferred to the division of probation and parole. Any veteran whose parole is revoked cannot reapply under proposed law for a period of not less than five years.

Proposed law provides that:

- (1) In order to implement its policies and programs, the state, through the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, will develop and maintain support for nongovernmental organizations to operate transitional facilities.

- (2) These facilities and nongovernment organizations will utilize the supporting welfare, health, education, and employment and the participation of citizens of the state including faith-based organizations and families of former offenders in attempts to achieve increased public safety and to lower the rates of recidivism.
- (3) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections will report annually to the legislature on the progress of the program.

Proposed law provides that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections may create, establish, operate, contract, and maintain transitional facilities for incarcerated offenders identified as veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Such facilities will be operated and maintained for those veterans who will serve as mentors for the Veterans Court program and those veterans who have a strong rehabilitation potential.

Proposed law provides that any offender identified as a veteran of the United States Armed Forces and sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labor will be eligible for transfer to a transitional facility subject to the provisions set forth in present law. If any offender violates the provisions set forth, he will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Failure to timely report to or return from planned employment or assigned appointment will be considered an escape under the provisions of present law.

Proposed law provides that veterans will serve as mentors for the Veterans Court program.

Proposed law provides that the incarcerated veterans will be eligible to obtain commercial employment or mentors may attend universities, colleges, technical, vocational or trade school, or participate in sheltered workshops, other rehabilitated groups, or in training programs designed to improve the skills and abilities of the mentor.

Proposed law provides that any mentor who participates in commercial employment will have his wages collected by the department or by a designated agent, and the department or the agent will have the wages deposited in a public banking institution.

Proposed law provides that mentors commercially employed will be responsible for the cost of his room, board, clothing, and other necessary expenses unless other means of payment are approved by the department, excepting that this liability may be waived if the offender is an enrolled full-time participant in sheltered workshops, or in training programs.

Proposed law provides that the wages of any such offender will be disbursed for the following purposes and in the order stated subject to the approval of the department:

- (a) The board of the offender including food and clothing.
- (b) Necessary travel expense to and from work and other incidental expenses of the offender.
- (c) Support of the offender's dependents, if any.

- (d) Religious obligations, if any.
- (e) Payment, either in full or ratably of the offender's obligation acknowledged by him in writing, or which have been reduced to judgment.
- (f) Offender's weekly allowance, if any.
- (g) The balance, if any, to the offender upon his discharge.

Proposed law provides that the wages of an inmate so employed will not be less than the customary wages for an employee performing similar services.

Proposed law provides that in no case will an offender participating in such programs be authorized or permitted to work or to continue working on a project or job involved in a labor dispute.

Proposed law provides that deductions for room, board, and other administrative costs resulting from participation of commercial employment in connection with the transitional facility authorized by proposed law will not exceed 33%.

Proposed law provides that the department or its agent may employ special educators, guidance counselors, medical professionals and other professional personnel to staff transitional facilities or may contract for the services of such person with community service organizations, religious groups, universities, and medical schools.

Proposed law provides that all transitional facilities will be minimum security structures and no facility will contain cells or barred windows, and no offender of any such facility will be locked in a room thereof. There will not be any armed guards at any such facility.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 13:5366.1)