
DIGEST

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HB 173 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

James

Abstract: Provides parole eligibility for certain juvenile offenders, provides the requirements for eligibility, and provides certain requirements for the committee on parole in such cases, including certain factors the committee is required to consider.

Present law provides parole eligibility for certain offenders.

Proposed law retains present law and provides parole eligibility for any person serving a term or terms of imprisonment that result in a period of incarceration of 25 years or more and who was under the age of 18 years at the time of the commission if certain conditions are met including but not limited to the following:

- (1) The offender has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the 12 consecutive months prior to the parole hearing date.
- (2) The offender has completed the mandatory minimum of 100 hours of prerelease programming.
- (3) The offender has completed substance abuse treatment as applicable.
- (4) The offender has obtained a GED certification or has completed certain other educational or job skills programs.
- (5) The offender has obtained a low-risk level designation determined by a validated risk assessment instrument.
- (6) The offender has completed a reentry program.

Proposed law provides that for each offender eligible for parole consideration pursuant to proposed law, the committee on parole shall meet in a three-member panel, shall consider the impact that the lack of brain development in adolescence has on culpability and behavior, a juvenile offender's unique ability to mature and grow, and any other relevant evidence or testimony pertaining to the offender. Proposed law further requires the three-member panel to render specific findings of fact in support of its decision.

(Adds R.S. 15:574.4(J))