

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 399

BY SENATOR MILLS

PUBLIC SFTY/CORRECT DEPT. Provides with respect to the parole eligibility. (8/1/14)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:574.4(A)(4)(b), (B)(2)(a)(iii), (iv) and (v), (B)(2)(b)(iii), (iv)  
3 and (v), B(2)(c)(iii), (iv) and (v), (B)(2)(d)(iii),(iv) and (v), (D)(1)(b), and (E)(1)(b),  
4 relative to parole eligibility; to require that disqualification for a disciplinary offense  
5 be a major offense; to provide for definitions; to change time frame for consideration  
6 of disciplinary offenses; to limit required services to those available at facility where  
7 offender is incarcerated; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 15:574.4(A)(4)(b), (B)(2)(a)(iii), (iv) and (v), (B)(2)(b)(iii), (iv) and  
10 (v), B(2)(c)(iii), (iv) and (v), (B)(2)(d)(iii),(iv) and (v), (D)(1)(b), and (E)(1)(b) are hereby  
11 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §574.4. Parole; eligibility

13 A.(1) \* \* \*  
14 \* \* \*

15 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, unless eligible  
16 for parole at an earlier date, a person committed to the Department of Public Safety  
17 and Corrections for a term or terms of imprisonment with or without benefit of

1 parole who has served at least ten years of the term or terms of imprisonment in  
2 actual custody shall be eligible for parole consideration upon reaching the age of  
3 sixty years if all of the following conditions are met:

4 \* \* \*

5 (b) The offender has not committed any **major** disciplinary offenses in  
6 twelve consecutive months prior to the parole ~~eligibility~~ **hearing** date. **A major**  
7 **disciplinary offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the**  
8 **Department of Public Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and**  
9 **Procedures for Adult Offenders.**

10 \* \* \*

11 B(1) \* \* \*

12 \* \* \*

13 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person serving  
14 a life sentence, with or without the benefit of parole, who has not been convicted of  
15 a crime of violence as defined by R.S. 14:2(B), a sex offense as defined by R.S.  
16 15:541, or an offense, regardless of the date of conviction, which would constitute  
17 a crime of violence as defined by R.S. 14:2(B) or a sex offense as defined by R.S.  
18 15:541, shall be eligible for parole consideration as follows:

19 (a) If the person was at least eighteen years of age and under the age of  
20 twenty-five years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall be  
21 eligible for parole consideration if all of the following conditions have been met:

22 \* \* \*

23 (iii) The person has not committed any **major** disciplinary offenses in the  
24 twelve consecutive months prior to the parole ~~eligibility~~ **hearing** date. **A major**  
25 **disciplinary offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the**  
26 **Department of Public Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and**  
27 **Procedures for Adult Offenders.**

28 (iv) The person has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred hours  
29 of pre-release programming in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 15:827.1, if

1 such programming is available **at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.**

2 (v) The person has completed substance abuse treatment, if applicable and  
3 such treatment is available **at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.**

4 \* \* \*

5 (b) If the person was at least twenty-five years of age and under the age of  
6 thirty-five years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall be  
7 eligible for parole consideration if all of the following conditions have been met:

8 \* \* \*

9 (iii) The person has not committed any **major** disciplinary offenses in the  
10 twelve consecutive months prior to the parole ~~eligibility~~ **hearing** date. **A major**  
11 **disciplinary offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the**  
12 **Department of Public Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and**  
13 **Procedures for Adult Offenders.**

14 (iv) The person has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred hours  
15 of pre-release programming in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 15:827.1, if  
16 such programming is available **at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.**

17 (v) The person has completed substance abuse treatment, if applicable and  
18 such treatment is available **at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.**

19 \* \* \*

20 (c) If the person was at least thirty-five years of age and under the age of fifty  
21 years at the time he was sentenced to life imprisonment, he shall be eligible for  
22 parole consideration if all of the following conditions have been met:

23 \* \* \*

24 (iii) The person has not committed any **major** disciplinary offenses in the  
25 twelve consecutive months prior to the parole ~~eligibility~~ **hearing** date.

26 (iv) The person has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred hours  
27 of pre-release programming in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 15:827.1, if  
28 such programming is available **at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.**

29 (v) The person has completed substance abuse treatment, if applicable and

1 such treatment is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.

2 \* \* \*

3 (d) If the person was at least fifty years of age at the time he was sentenced  
4 to life imprisonment, he shall be eligible for parole consideration if all of the  
5 following conditions have been met:

6 \* \* \*

7 (iii) The person has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the  
8 twelve consecutive months prior to the parole ~~eligibility~~ hearing date.

9 (iv) The person has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred hours  
10 of pre-release programming in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 15:827.1, if  
11 such programming is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.

12 (v) The person has completed substance abuse treatment if applicable and  
13 such treatment is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.

14 \* \* \*

15 D.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person  
16 serving a sentence of life imprisonment who was under the age of eighteen years at  
17 the time of the commission of the offense, except for a person serving a life sentence  
18 for a conviction of first degree murder (R.S. 14:30) or second degree murder (R.S.  
19 14:30.1), shall be eligible for parole consideration pursuant to the provisions of this  
20 Subsection if all of the following conditions have been met:

21 \* \* \*

22 (b) The offender has not committed any major disciplinary offenses in the  
23 twelve consecutive months prior to the parole ~~eligibility~~ hearing date. A major  
24 disciplinary offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the  
25 Department of Public Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and  
26 Procedures for Adult Offenders.

27 \* \* \*

28 E.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person  
29 serving a sentence of life imprisonment for a conviction of first degree murder (R.S.

1           14:30) or second degree murder (R.S. 14:30.1) who was under the age of eighteen  
 2           years at the time of the commission of the offense shall be eligible for parole  
 3           consideration pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection if a judicial determination  
 4           has been made that the person is entitled to parole eligibility pursuant to Code of  
 5           Criminal Procedure Article 878.1 and all of the following conditions have been met:

\*       \*       \*

7           (b) The offender has not committed any **major** disciplinary offenses in the  
 8           twelve consecutive months prior to the parole ~~eligibility~~ **hearing** date. **A major**  
 9           **disciplinary offense is an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by the**  
 10          **Department of Public Safety and Corrections in the Disciplinary Rules and**  
 11          **Procedures for Adult Offenders.**

\*       \*       \*

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

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DIGEST

Mills (SB 399)

Present law provides numerous criteria for parole eligibility and consideration. Each set of criteria requires that the offender has not committed any disciplinary offenses in the 12 consecutive months prior to the parole eligibility date.

Proposed law changes the criteria to require that the offender has not committed a "major disciplinary offense" and defines a "major disciplinary offense" as an offense identified as a Schedule B offense by DPS&C in the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Adult Offenders. Also, changes the relevant time period from the 12 months prior to the parole eligibility date to the 12 months prior to the parole hearing date.

Present law requires as part of the conditions for eligibility that the offender has completed the mandatory minimum of 100 hours of prerelease programming in accordance with present law, if available, and substance abuse treatment, if applicable and available.

Proposed law retains present law but consistently limits the requirement of such program and treatment to that available at the facility where offender is incarcerated.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 15:574.4(A)(4)(b), (B)(2)(a)(iii), (iv) and (v), (B)(2)(b)(iii), (iv) and (v), B(2)(c)(iii), (iv) and (v), (B)(2)(d)(iii),(iv) and (v), (D)(1)(b), and (E)(1)(b))