

SENATE BILL NO. 473

BY SENATOR MILLS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:574.2(A)(3), (8), and (9)(a) and (b), and (C)(2)(b) and (c), relative to the committee on parole and rules of parole; to provide relative to education and experience requirements of board members; to provide relative to training requirements of the board; to provide for powers of ex officio board members; to provide relative to parole eligibility; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:574.2(A)(3), (8), and (9)(a) and (b), and (C)(2)(b) and (c) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§574.2. Committee on parole, Board of Pardons; membership; qualifications; vacancies; compensation; domicile; venue; meetings; quorum; panels; powers and duties; transfer of property to committee; representation of applicants before the committee; prohibitions

A.(1) * * *
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(3) Each Beginning with appointments made to the board, or appointments to fill a vacancy on the board, which occur after August 1, 2014, each member, except for the ex officio member, must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, and shall possess not less than five years actual experience in the field of penology, corrections, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, psychology or psychiatry, or a combination thereof. If the member does not have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, he or she must have no less than seven years experience in a field listed in this Paragraph. The provisions of this

1 Paragraph shall not apply to any person serving as a member of the board on August
2 1, 2012.

3 * * *

4 (8) The warden, or in his absence the deputy warden, of the correctional
5 facility in which the offender is incarcerated shall be an ex officio member of the
6 committee. When the offender is housed in a local correctional facility and the
7 warden, or deputy warden, of that facility is not able to attend the offender's parole
8 hearing, the warden, or in his absence the deputy warden, of the facility where the
9 offender's parole hearing is held may serve as an ex officio member. The ex officio
10 member shall not be a voting member nor shall he be counted or permitted to be
11 counted for purposes of the number of members necessary to take committee action
12 or the number of members necessary to establish quorum. ~~In all other respects, the~~
13 ~~ex officio member shall have the duties, authority, requirements, and benefits of any~~
14 ~~other committee member.~~

15 (9)(a) Within ninety days of being appointed to the committee on parole, each
16 **voting** member shall complete a comprehensive training course developed by the
17 Department of Public Safety and Corrections. The training course shall be developed
18 **in compliance with guidelines from the National Institute of Corrections, the**
19 **Association of Paroling Authorities International, or the American Probation**
20 **and Parole Association** using training components consistent with those offered by
21 ~~the National Institute of Corrections or the American Probation and Parole~~
22 ~~Association, and shall include classes regarding the following topics:~~

23 ~~(i) The elements of the decision making process, through the use of~~
24 ~~evidence-based practices for determining offender risk, needs, and motivation to~~
25 ~~change, including the actuarial assessment tool used by the parole agent.~~

26 ~~(ii) The security classifications as established by the department.~~

27 ~~(iii) The programming and disciplinary processes and the department's~~
28 ~~supervision, case planning, and violation process.~~

29 ~~(iv) The dynamics of criminal victimization.~~

30 ~~(v) Collaboration with corrections related stakeholders, both public and~~

private, to increase offender success and public safety.

(b) Each member shall complete a minimum of eight hours of training annually, which shall be provided for in the annual budget of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. The annual training course shall be developed using the training components consistent with those offered by ~~from~~ the National Institute of Corrections, the Association of Paroling Authorities International, or American Probation and Parole Association. Training components shall include an emphasis on the following subjects and shall offer classes regarding the following topics:

(i) ~~A review and analysis of the effectiveness of the assessment tool used by the parole agents~~ Data-driven decision making.

(ii) ~~A review of the department's progress toward public safety goals~~ Evidence-based practices. As used in this Item, "evidence-based practices" means practices proven through research to reduce recidivism.

(iii) ~~The use of data in decision making~~ Stakeholder collaboration.

(iv) ~~Any information regarding promising and evidence-based practices offered in the corrections related and crime victim dynamics field~~ Recidivism reduction.

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C.(1) * * *

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(2) The committee may grant parole with two votes of a three-member panel, or, if the number exceeds a three-member panel, a majority vote of those present if all of the following conditions are met:

* * *

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

1 (c) The offender has completed the mandatory minimum of one hundred
2 hours of pre-release programming in accordance with R.S. 15:827.1 if such
3 programming is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____