

By: Crockett

H.B. No. 2341

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the release on parole of certain inmates convicted of an
3 offense committed when younger than 25 years of age; changing
4 parole eligibility.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 508.046, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 508.046. EXTRAORDINARY VOTE REQUIRED. To release on
9 parole an inmate who was convicted of an offense under Section
10 20A.03, 21.02, 21.11(a)(1), or 22.021, Penal Code, or who is
11 serving a sentence under Section 12.42(c)(2), Penal Code ~~[required~~
12 ~~under Section 508.145(c) to serve 35 calendar years before becoming~~
13 ~~eligible for release on parole]~~, all members of the board must vote
14 on the release on parole of the inmate, and at least two-thirds of
15 the members must vote in favor of the release on parole. A member of
16 the board may not vote on the release unless the member first
17 receives a copy of a written report from the department on the
18 probability that the inmate would commit an offense after being
19 released on parole.

20 SECTION 2. Section 508.145, Government Code, is amended by
21 amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (g) to
22 read as follows:

23 (b) An inmate serving a life sentence under Section
24 12.31(a)(1), Penal Code, for a capital felony is not eligible for

1 release on parole until the actual calendar time the inmate has
2 served, without consideration of good conduct time, equals 20 [~~40~~]
3 calendar years.

4 (b-1) An inmate who was transferred from the Texas Juvenile
5 Justice Department or a post-adjudication secure correctional
6 facility, as defined by Section 152.00011, Human Resources Code,
7 for an offense under Section 19.03, Penal Code, is not eligible for
8 release on parole until the inmate's actual calendar time served,
9 without consideration of good conduct time, equals one-fourth of
10 the sentence or 15 calendar years, whichever is less.

11 (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section and
12 except as otherwise provided by this subsection, an inmate who is
13 serving a sentence for an offense that was committed when the inmate
14 was younger than 25 years of age is eligible for release on parole
15 in one-half the time that the inmate would otherwise be eligible for
16 release on parole under another provision of this section. This
17 subsection does not apply to:

18 (1) an inmate described by Subsection (a), (b), or
19 (b-1); or

20 (2) an inmate who was sentenced to a term that is less
21 than five years.

22 SECTION 3. Section 499.053(d), Government Code, is
23 repealed.

24 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies to any
25 inmate who is confined in a facility operated by or under contract
26 with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on or after the
27 effective date of this Act, regardless of whether the offense for

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1 which the inmate is confined occurred before, on, or after the
2 effective date of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.