

By: Jones of Harris

H.B. No. 3595

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

(b) An inmate serving a life sentence under Section 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 an inmate described by:

18 (1) Subsection (a), (b), or (b-1); or

19 (2) Subsection (c-1)(1) who is not eligible for  
20 release on parole.

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22 repealed.

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

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1 effective date of this Act.

2 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.