

By: Hull

H.B. No. 4332

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the procedures for and reporting regarding the consideration of inmates for release on parole and the frequency with which the Board of Pardons and Paroles reconsiders inmates for release on parole.

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

SECTION 1. Section 508.036(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The presiding officer shall:

(1) develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policy-making responsibilities of the board and the management responsibilities of the board administrator, parole commissioners, and the staff of the board;

(2) establish caseloads and required work hours for members of the board and parole commissioners;

(3) update parole guidelines, assign precedential value to previous decisions of the board relating to the granting of parole and the revocation of parole or mandatory supervision, and develop policies to ensure that members of the board and parole commissioners use guidelines and previous decisions of the board and parole commissioners in making decisions under this chapter;

(4) require members of the board and parole commissioners to file activity reports that provide information on release decisions made by members of the board and parole

commissioners, the workload and hours worked of the members of the board and parole commissioners, and the use of parole guidelines by members of the board and parole commissioners; and

(5) report at least annually to the governor and the legislature on the activities of the board and parole commissioners, parole release decisions, the number of inmates who requested to be interviewed by the parole panel considering the release of the inmate on parole and the number of interviews granted, and the use of parole guidelines by the board and parole commissioners.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 508, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 508.056 to read as follows:

Sec. 508.056. INMATE'S ACCESS TO SUMMARY PREPARED BY PAROLE OFFICER. Not later than the 30th day before the date on which a parole panel is allowed to consider an inmate for release on parole, the division shall provide the inmate with a copy of the summary regarding the inmate prepared by a parole officer for the parole panel considering the inmate's release. An inmate may, after receipt of a copy of the summary, provide a written statement to the division to:

- (1) correct any errors in the summary; or
- (2) provide additional information for consideration by the parole panel.

SECTION 3. Sections 508.141(g) and (g-1), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(g) The board shall adopt a policy establishing the date on which the board may reconsider for release an inmate who has

1 previously been denied release. The policy must require the board  
2 to reconsider the inmate for release[+]

3 ~~[(1) an inmate serving a sentence for an offense~~  
4 ~~listed in Section 508.149(a) or for an offense punishable as a~~  
5 ~~felony of the second or third degree under Section 22.04, Penal~~  
6 ~~Code,]~~ during a month designated under Subsection (g-1) by the  
7 parole panel that denied release[+and

8 ~~[(2) an inmate other than an inmate described by~~  
9 ~~Subdivision (1) as soon as practicable after the first anniversary~~  
10 ~~of the date of the denial].~~

11 (g-1) The month designated for reconsideration [~~under~~  
12 ~~Subsection (g)(1) by the parole panel that denied release]~~ must:

13 (1) except as provided by Subdivision (2), begin after  
14 the first anniversary of the date of the denial and end before the  
15 fifth anniversary of the date of the denial; or

16 (2) if [~~unless~~] the inmate is serving a sentence for  
17 an offense under Section 22.021, Penal Code, or a life sentence for  
18 a capital felony, [~~in which event the designated month must]~~ begin  
19 after the first anniversary of the date of the denial and end before  
20 the 10th anniversary of the date of the denial.

21 SECTION 4. The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall adopt a  
22 policy consistent with Section 508.141, Government Code, as amended  
23 by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this  
24 Act.

25 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.