

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE BILL NO. 422

By: Dunlap

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to parole hearings; amending 57 O.S. 1991, Section 332.7, as last amended by Section 18, Chapter 2, 1st Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 1998 (57 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 332.7), which relates to parole consideration; authorizing victim's testimony via closed circuit television or other electronic means; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 1991, Section 332.7, as last amended by Section 18, Chapter 2, 1st Extraordinary Session, O.S.L. 1998 (57 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 332.7), is amended to read as follows:

Section 332.7 A. For a crime committed prior to July 1, 1998, any person in the custody of the Department of Corrections shall be eligible for consideration for parole at the earliest of the following dates:

1. Has completed serving one-third (1/3) of the sentence;
2. Has reached at least sixty (60) years of age and also has served at least fifty percent (50%) of the time of imprisonment that would have been imposed for that offense pursuant to the applicable Truth in Sentencing matrix; provided, however, no inmate serving a sentence for crimes listed in Schedules A, S-1, S-2 or S-3 or serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole shall be eligible to be considered for parole pursuant to this paragraph;
3. Has reached eighty-five percent (85%) of the midpoint of the time of imprisonment that would have been imposed for an offense that is listed in Schedule A, B, C, D, D-1, S-1, S-2 or S-3,

pursuant to the applicable matrix; provided, however, no inmate serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole shall be eligible to be considered for parole pursuant to this paragraph; or

4. Has reached seventy-five percent (75%) of the midpoint of the time of imprisonment that would have been imposed for an offense that is listed in any other schedule, pursuant to the applicable matrix; provided, however, no inmate serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole shall be eligible to be considered for parole pursuant to this paragraph.

B. For a crime committed on or after July 1, 1998, but prior to July 1, 1999, any person in the custody of the Department of Corrections shall be eligible for consideration for parole who has completed serving one-third (1/3) of the sentence; provided, however, no inmate serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole shall be eligible to be considered for parole pursuant to this subsection.

C. The parole hearings conducted for persons pursuant to paragraph 3 of subsection A of this section or for any person who was convicted of a violent crime as set forth in Section 571 of this title and who is eligible for parole consideration pursuant to either paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section or subsection B of this section shall be conducted in two stages, as follows:

1. At the initial hearing, the Pardon and Parole Board shall review the completed report submitted by the staff of the Board and shall conduct a vote regarding whether, based upon that report, the Board decides to consider the person for parole at a subsequent meeting of the Board; and

2. At the subsequent meeting, the Board shall hear from any victim or victim's representative that wants to contest the granting of parole to that person and shall conduct a vote regarding whether parole should be recommended for that person. The victim impact statement submitted to the court in the original sentencing

proceeding shall be provided to each Board member prior to the victim or victim's representative testimony. Subject to the availability of closed circuit television or other electronic means approved by the Board, a victim or victim's representative may testify by such electronic means in lieu of appearing in person before the Board.

D. Any inmate who has parole consideration dates calculated pursuant to subsection A, B or C of this section shall be considered at the earliest such date. Except as otherwise directed by the Pardon and Parole Board, any person who has been considered for parole and was denied parole or who has waived consideration shall not be reconsidered for parole:

1. Within three (3) years, if the person was convicted of a violent crime, as set forth in Section 571 of this title, and was eligible for consideration pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section or subsection B of this section, unless the person is within one (1) year of discharge;

2. Until the person has served at least one-third (1/3) of the sentence imposed, if the person was eligible for consideration pursuant to paragraph 3 of subsection A of this section. Thereafter the person shall not be considered more frequently than once every three (3) years, unless the person is within one (1) year of discharge;

3. Within one (1) year, if the person was convicted of a nonviolent crime and was eligible for consideration pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section or subsection B of this section; and

4. Within one (1) year, if the person was eligible for consideration pursuant to paragraph 2 or 4 of subsection A of this section.

E. Any person in the custody of the Department of Corrections for a crime committed prior to July 1, 1998, who has been considered

for parole on a docket created for a type of parole consideration that has been abolished by the Legislature shall not be considered for parole except in accordance with this section.

F. The Department of Corrections and the Pardon and Parole Board shall promulgate rules for the implementation of subsections A, B and C of this section. The rules shall include, but not be limited to, procedures for reconsideration of persons denied parole under this section and procedure for determining what sentence a person eligible for parole consideration pursuant to subsection A of this section would have received under the applicable matrix.

G. For persons in the custody of the Department of Corrections for a felony committed prior to July 1, 1999, the Pardon and Parole Board shall not recommend to the Governor any person who has been convicted of three or more felonies arising out of separate and distinct transactions, with three or more incarcerations for such felonies, unless such person shall have served the lesser of at least one-third (1/3) of the sentence imposed, or ten (10) years; provided that whenever the population of the prison system exceeds ninety-five percent (95%) of the capacity as certified by the State Board of Corrections, the Pardon and Parole Board may, at its discretion, recommend to the Governor for parole any person who is incarcerated for a nonviolent offense not involving injury to a person and who is within six (6) months of his or her statutory parole eligibility date.

H. For a crime committed on or after July 1, 1999:

1. Any person convicted of a crime in Schedule A, B, C, D, D-1, S-1, S-2 or S-3 shall be eligible for parole consideration after serving eighty-five percent (85%) of the sentence of imprisonment imposed unless the sentence has been discharged by accumulated credits pursuant to Section 138 of this title;

2. Any person convicted of a crime in any other schedule shall be eligible for parole consideration after serving seventy-five

percent (75%) of the sentence of imprisonment imposed subject to the accumulation of credits pursuant to Section 138 of this title; or

3. A person who is sixty (60) years of age or older, who has not been sentenced to life without parole or death and who has not been convicted of a crime listed in Schedule A, S-1, S-2 or S-3, shall be eligible for parole consideration after the person has served at least fifty percent (50%) of any imposed sentence of incarceration.

The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

I. It shall be the duty of the Pardon and Parole Board to cause an examination to be made at the penal institution where the person is assigned, and to make inquiry into the conduct and the record of the ~~said~~ person during ~~his~~ such person's custody in the Department of Corrections, which shall be considered as a basis for consideration of ~~said~~ the person for recommendation to the Governor for parole. However, the Pardon and Parole Board shall not be required to consider for parole any person who has completed the time period provided for in this subsection if the person has participated in a riot or in the taking of hostages, or has been placed on escape status, while in the custody of the Department of Corrections. The Pardon and Parole Board shall adopt policies and procedures governing parole consideration for such persons.

J. Any person in the custody of the Department of Corrections who is convicted of an offense not designated as a violent offense by Section 571 of Title 57 of the Oklahoma Statutes and who is not a citizen of the United States and is or becomes subject of a final order of deportation issued by the United States Department of Justice shall be considered for parole to the custody of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service for continuation of deportation proceedings at any time subsequent to reception and processing through the Department of Corrections.

K. Upon application of any person convicted and sentenced by a court of this state and relinquished to the custody of another state or federal authorities pursuant to Section 61.2 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the Pardon and Parole Board may determine a parole consideration date consistent with the provisions of this section and criteria established by the Pardon and Parole Board.

L. No person who is appearing out of the normal processing procedure shall be eligible for consideration for parole without the concurrence of at least three (3) members of the Pardon and Parole Board.

M. Any person convicted of a crime committed on or after July 1, 1999, who was sentenced to postimprisonment supervision and who is granted parole while incarcerated, shall be placed under parole supervision before beginning postimprisonment supervision.

N. If a person is sentenced to consecutive sentences pursuant to the Oklahoma Community Sentencing Act of county jail incarceration that requires the person to be incarcerated more than eighteen (18) months, the person shall be eligible for parole consideration after serving at least eighteen (18) months of the confinement. The local administrator for community punishment shall notify the Pardon and Parole Board of any persons who qualify for parole pursuant to this subsection.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

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