STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

SENATE BILL 118 By: Griffin

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to pardon and parole; amending 57 O.S. 2011, Section 332.7, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2013 (57 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 332.7), which relates to pardon and parole hearings; changing the order of hearing presenters; requiring a public vote at hearing; amending 57 O.S. 2011, Section 332.19, which relates to parole procedures; requiring certain documentation to be provided to the Governor; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2011, Section 332.7, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 124, O.S.L. 2013 (57 O.S. Supp. 2014, 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 matrix, provided in Sections 598 through 601, Chapter 133, O.S.L. 1997; provided, however, no inmate serving a sentence for crimes listed in Schedules A, S-1, S-2 or S-3 of Section 6, Chapter 133, O.S.L. 1997, 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 of Section 6, Chapter 133, O.S.L. 1997, 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, 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 the following, in this order: offenders and their delegations, District Attorneys or their designees and other law enforcement personnel, and any victim or representatives of the victim that want to contest the granting of parole to that person. Immediately upon conclusion of the victim or representatives of the victim's presentation, the Board ~~and~~ shall publicly conduct a vote regarding whether parole should be recommended for that person and record such vote pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

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 of the denial or waiver, 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; or

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.

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 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. 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. Inmates sentenced to consecutive sentences shall not be eligible for parole consideration on any such consecutive sentence until one-third (1/3) of the consecutive sentence has been served or where parole has been otherwise limited by law, until the minimum term of incarceration has been served as required by law. Unless otherwise ordered by the sentencing court, any credit for jail time served shall be credited to only one offense.

I. The Pardon and Parole Board shall consider the prior criminal record of inmates under consideration for parole

recommendation or granting of parole. In the event the Board grants parole for a nonviolent offender who has previously been convicted of an offense enumerated in Section 13.1 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes or Section 571 of this title, such offender shall be subject to nine (9) months' postimprisonment supervision upon release.

J. 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 or her 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.

K. 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 this title, is not a citizen of the United States and is subject to or becomes subject to 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. No person shall be considered for parole under this subsection without the concurrence of at least three members of the Pardon and Parole Board. The vote on whether or not to consider such person for parole and the names of the concurring Board members shall be set forth in the written minutes of the meeting of the Board at which the issue is considered.

L. 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.

M. All references in this section to matrices or schedules shall be construed with reference to the provisions of Sections 6, 598, 599, 600 and 601, Chapter 133, O.S.L. 1997.

N. Any person in the custody of the Department of Corrections who is convicted of a felony sex offense pursuant to Section 582 of this title who is paroled shall immediately be placed on intensive supervision.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 57 O.S. 2011, Section 332.19, is amended to read as follows:

Section 332.19. Within thirty (30) days after approval of an application for pardon, the Pardon and Parole Board shall forward all relevant documentation to the Governor. <u>If such documentation includes audio and video recording of the offender, anyone speaking in support of the offender, or both the offender and anyone speaking in support of the offender, then audio and video recording of the District Attorney or his or her designee, any law enforcement personnel, as well as the victim or the victim's representative, shall likewise be forwarded to the Governor. If the Board is unable to forward any of these audio and video presentations to the Governor, then none of the recordings shall be forwarded to the Governor.</u> Upon receipt, the Governor shall have ninety (90) days to grant or deny the application for pardon. If an application for pardon is not approved by the Pardon and Parole Board, the application for pardon shall be deemed denied. If no action is taken by the Governor, the application shall be deemed denied. The Pardon and Parole Board shall notify the person making application for pardon of all actions taken by the Pardon and Parole Board or the Governor regarding the application for pardon.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2015.

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