

2014 -- H 7100

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LC003362  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINALS -- CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Hull, McLaughlin, Giarrusso, Malik, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: January 15, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 13-8-13 of the General Laws in Chapter 13-8 entitled "Parole" is  
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **13-8-13. Life prisoners and prisoners with lengthy sentences.** ~~– (a) In the case of a~~  
4 ~~prisoner sentenced to imprisonment for life, a parole permit may be issued at any time after the~~  
5 ~~prisoner has served not less than ten (10) years imprisonment provided, that:~~

6           ~~(1) In the case of a prisoner serving a sentence or sentences of a length making him or~~  
7 ~~her ineligible for a permit in less than ten (10) years, pursuant to sections 13-8-9 and 13-8-10, the~~  
8 ~~permit may be issued at any time after the prisoner has served not less than ten (10) years~~  
9 ~~imprisonment.~~

10           ~~(2) In the case of a prisoner sentenced to imprisonment for life for a first or second~~  
11 ~~degree murder committed after July 10, 1989, the permit may be issued only after the prisoner has~~  
12 ~~served not less than fifteen (15) years imprisonment.~~

13           ~~(3) (i) In the case of a prisoner sentenced to imprisonment for life for a first or second~~  
14 ~~degree murder committed after June 30, 1995, the permit may be issued only after the prisoner~~  
15 ~~has served not less than twenty (20) years imprisonment; and~~

16           ~~(ii) The permit shall be issued only by a unanimous vote of all the attending members of~~  
17 ~~the board, providing that not less than four (4) members are present, and whenever, after the issue~~  
18 ~~of the permit, the prisoner shall be pardoned, then the control of the board over the prisoner shall~~  
19 ~~cease and terminate.~~

1 ~~(4) (i) In the case of a prisoner sentenced to imprisonment for life who is convicted of~~  
2 ~~escape or attempted escape from the lawful custody of the warden of the adult correctional~~  
3 ~~institutions, the permit may be issued only after the prisoner has served not less than twenty five~~  
4 ~~(25) years imprisonment; and~~

5 ~~(ii) For each subsequent conviction of escape or attempted escape, an additional five (5)~~  
6 ~~years shall be added to the time required to be served.~~

7 ~~(b) In the case of a prisoner sentenced consecutively to more than one life term for~~  
8 ~~crimes occurring after May 7, 1981, the permit may be issued only after the prisoner has served~~  
9 ~~not less than ten (10) years consecutively on each life sentence; provided, in the case of a prisoner~~  
10 ~~sentenced consecutively to more than one life term for crimes occurring after June 30, 1995, the~~  
11 ~~permit may be issued only after the prisoner has served not less than fifteen (15) years~~  
12 ~~consecutively on each life sentence.~~

13 (a)(1) No person convicted for a first or second degree murder who has been sentenced  
14 to a term of life imprisonment shall be eligible for a parole permit until he or she has served at  
15 least thirty (30) years of the life sentence.

16 (2) If any such person shall be sentenced to consecutive life sentences for convictions of  
17 more than a single first or second degree murder, he or she shall not be eligible for a parole  
18 permit until he or she has served thirty (30) years of each of the life sentences.

19 (3) No person sentenced to a term of life imprisonment for the commission of a crime  
20 other than first or second degree murder, shall be eligible for a parole permit until he or she has  
21 served at least twenty (20) years of the life sentence. In the event the person has received  
22 consecutive life sentences for crimes other than first or second degree murder, he or she shall be  
23 required to serve twenty (20) years of each sentence before being eligible for a parole permit.

24 (4) Subdivisions (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this section, shall apply to crimes committed  
25 on or after July 1, 2014. All persons convicted and sentenced for crimes committed prior to July  
26 1, 2014 shall continue to be eligible for a parole permit as provided for at the time of the  
27 commission of the particular offense or offenses for which the sentence or sentences were  
28 imposed and, if applicable, pursuant to §§ 13-8-9 and 13-8-10.

29 (5) In the case of a prisoner who has been sentenced to a term of life imprisonment for  
30 conviction of first or second degree murder committed after July 10, 1989 and prior to June 30,  
31 1995, no parole permit may be issued until the prisoner has served at least fifteen (15) years  
32 imprisonment.

33 (6) In the case of a prisoner who has been sentenced to a term of life imprisonment for  
34 conviction of first or second degree murder committed after June 30, 1995 and prior to July 1,

1 2014, no parole permit may be issued until the prisoner has served at least twenty (20) years  
2 imprisonment.

3 (7) In the case of a prisoner who has been sentenced consecutively to more than one term  
4 of life imprisonment for conviction of crimes, other than first and second degree murder,  
5 committed after May 7, 1981 and prior to July 1, 1995, no parole permit may be issued until the  
6 prisoner has served at least ten (10) years consecutively on each life sentence.

7 (8) In the case of a prisoner who has been sentenced consecutively to more than one term  
8 of life imprisonment for any crimes occurring after June 30, 1995 and prior to July 1, 2014, no  
9 parole permit may be issued until the prisoner has served at least fifteen (15) years consecutively  
10 on each life sentence.

11 (9) In the case of a prisoner who has been sentenced to a term of life imprisonment and  
12 thereafter who is convicted of escape or attempted escape from the lawful custody of the warden  
13 of the adult correctional institutions, no parole permit may be issued until the prisoner actually  
14 shall have served at least twenty-five (25) years imprisonment; provided, however, that a prisoner  
15 who has been sentenced to a term of life imprisonment for conviction of first or second degree  
16 murder, committed on or after July 1, 2014, and who is convicted thereafter of escape or  
17 attempted escape from the lawful custody of the warden of the adult correctional institutions, no  
18 parole permit may be issued until the prisoner has served at least thirty-five (35) years  
19 imprisonment. For each subsequent conviction of escape or attempted escape, an additional five  
20 (5) years shall be added to the time required to be served.

21 (b) The permit shall be issued only by a unanimous vote of all the attending members of  
22 the board, with no fewer than four (4) members present.

23 (c) If, after the issue of the permit the prisoner is pardoned, the control of the board over  
24 the prisoner shall cease.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO CRIMINALS -- CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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- 1           This act would change the parole guidelines for persons who commit first and second
- 2 degree murder.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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