

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

EXTRA SESSION 1994

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SENATE BILL 96

Short Title: Parole Eligibility.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Odom.

Referred to: Corrections/Punishment.

February 15, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REDUCE THE ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE ONCE IT IS DENIED TO ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS RATHER THAN ONCE EACH YEAR.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 15A-1371(b)(2) reads as rewritten:

"(2) Within the period of 90 days prior to the expiration of the first year of the sentence, if he is eligible for parole at any time. Whenever the Parole Commission will be considering for parole a prisoner who, if released, would have served less than half of the maximum term of his sentence, the Commission must notify the prisoner and the district attorney of the district where the prisoner was convicted at least 30 days in advance of considering the parole. If the district attorney makes a written request in such cases, the Commission must publicly conduct its consideration of parole. Following its consideration, the Commission must give the prisoner written notice of its decision. If parole is denied, the Commission ~~must~~ may not consider its decision while the prisoner is eligible for parole ~~at least once a year until parole is granted~~ until two years have elapsed since parole was last denied, and must give the prisoner written notice of its ~~decision at least once a year;~~ decision; or".

Sec. 2. G.S. 15A-1371(a1) as it will be effective upon the effective date of Section 22 of Chapter 538 of the 1993 Session Laws reads as rewritten:

"(a1) A prisoner serving a term of life imprisonment is eligible for parole after serving 25 years. If such person is denied parole or if the Post-Release Supervision and

1 Parole Commission has refused to release such person on parole, the Commission may
2 not consider its decision while the prisoner is eligible for parole until two years have
3 elapsed since parole was last denied and must give the prisoner written notice of its
4 decision. This subsection applies to offenses committed on and after January 1, 1995."

5 Sec. 3. Section 1 of this act is effective upon ratification but shall not affect
6 any consideration of parole where on the date of ratification of this act a year has
7 expired since the last denial. The language added by Section 1 of this act expires upon
8 the effective date of Section 22 of Chapter 538 of the 1993 Session Laws, but remains
9 effective for offenses committed prior to the effective date of Section 22 of Chapter 538
10 of the 1993 Session Laws as provided by Section 56 of that act. Section 2 of this act
11 becomes effective at the same time that Section 22 of Chapter 538 of the 1993 Session
12 Laws becomes effective. This section is effective upon ratification.