

SENATE BILL No. 634

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-26

AN ACT concerning the Kansas parole board; relating to hearings conducted thereby; amending K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 22-3717 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 22-3717 is hereby amended to read as follows: 22-3717. (a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, K.S.A. 1993 Supp. 21-4628 prior to its repeal and K.S.A. 21-4635 through 21-4638 and amendments thereto, and K.S.A. 8-1567, and amendments thereto, an inmate, including an inmate sentenced pursuant to K.S.A. 21-4618 and amendments thereto, shall be eligible for parole after serving the entire minimum sentence imposed by the court, less good time credits.

(b) (1) Except as provided by K.S.A. 21-4635 through 21-4638 and amendments thereto, an inmate sentenced to imprisonment for the crime of capital murder, or an inmate sentenced for the crime of murder in the first degree based upon a finding of premeditated murder, committed on or after July 1, 1994, shall be eligible for parole after serving 25 years of confinement, without deduction of any good time credits.

(2) Except as provided by subsection (b)(1) or (b)(4), K.S.A. 1993 Supp. 21-4628 prior to its repeal and K.S.A. 21-4635 through 21-4638, and amendments thereto, an inmate sentenced to imprisonment for an off-grid offense committed on or after July 1, 1993, but prior to July 1, 1999, shall be eligible for parole after serving 15 years of confinement, without deduction of any good time credits and an inmate sentenced to imprisonment for an off-grid offense committed on or after July 1, 1999, shall be eligible for parole after serving 20 years of confinement without deduction of any good time credits.

(3) Except as provided by K.S.A. 1993 Supp. 21-4628 prior to its repeal, an inmate sentenced for a class A felony committed before July 1, 1993, including an inmate sentenced pursuant to K.S.A. 21-4618 and amendments thereto, shall be eligible for parole after serving 15 years of confinement, without deduction of any good time credits.

(4) An inmate sentenced to imprisonment for a violation of subsection (a) of K.S.A. 21-3402 and amendments thereto committed on or after

1 July 1, 1996, but prior to July 1, 1999, shall be eligible for parole after
2 serving 10 years of confinement without deduction of any good time
3 credits.

4 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e), if an inmate is sentenced to
5 imprisonment for more than one crime and the sentences run consec-
6 utively, the inmate shall be eligible for parole after serving the total of:

7 (1) The aggregate minimum sentences, as determined pursuant to
8 K.S.A. 21-4608 and amendments thereto, less good time credits for those
9 crimes which are not class A felonies; and

10 (2) an additional 15 years, without deduction of good time credits,
11 for each crime which is a class A felony.

12 (d) (1) Persons sentenced for crimes, other than off-grid crimes,
13 committed on or after July 1, 1993, will not be eligible for parole, but will
14 be released to a mandatory period of postrelease supervision upon com-
15 pletion of the prison portion of their sentence as follows:

16 (A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (D) and (E), persons sen-
17 tenced for nondrug severity level 1 through 4 crimes and drug severity
18 levels 1 and 2 crimes must serve 36 months, plus the amount of good
19 time earned and retained pursuant to K.S.A. 21-4722 and amendments
20 thereto, on postrelease supervision.

21 (B) Except as provided in subparagraphs (D) and (E), persons sen-
22 tenced for nondrug severity levels 5 and 6 crimes and drug severity level
23 3 crimes must serve 24 months, plus the amount of good time earned
24 and retained pursuant to K.S.A. 21-4722, and amendments thereto, on
25 postrelease supervision.

26 (C) Except as provided in subparagraphs (D) and (E), persons sen-
27 tenced for nondrug severity level 7 through 10 crimes and drug severity
28 level 4 crimes must serve 12 months, plus the amount of good time earned
29 and retained pursuant to K.S.A. 21-4722 and amendments thereto, on
30 postrelease supervision.

31 (D) (i) The sentencing judge shall impose the postrelease supervi-
32 sion period provided in subparagraph (d)(1)(A), (d)(1)(B) or (d)(1)(C),
33 unless the judge finds substantial and compelling reasons to impose a
34 departure based upon a finding that the current crime of conviction was
35 sexually violent or sexually motivated. In that event, departure may be
36 imposed to extend the postrelease supervision to a period of up to 60
37 months.

38 (ii) If the sentencing judge departs from the presumptive postrelease
39 supervision period, the judge shall state on the record at the time of
40 sentencing the substantial and compelling reasons for the departure. De-
41 partures in this section are subject to appeal pursuant to K.S.A. 21-4721
42 and amendments thereto.

43 (iii) In determining whether substantial and compelling reasons exist,

1 the court shall consider:

2 (a) Written briefs or oral arguments submitted by either the defend-
3 ant or the state;

4 (b) any evidence received during the proceeding;

5 (c) the presentence report, the victim's impact statement and any
6 psychological evaluation as ordered by the court pursuant to subsection
7 (e) of K.S.A. 21-4714 and amendments thereto; and

8 (d) any other evidence the court finds trustworthy and reliable.

9 (iv) The sentencing judge may order that a psychological evaluation
10 be prepared and the recommended programming be completed by the
11 offender. The department of corrections or the parole board shall ensure
12 that court ordered sex offender treatment be carried out.

13 (v) In carrying out the provisions of subparagraph (d)(1)(D), the court
14 shall refer to K.S.A. 21-4718 and amendments thereto.

15 (vi) Upon petition, the parole board may provide for early discharge
16 from the postrelease supervision period upon completion of court or-
17 dered programs and completion of the presumptive postrelease super-
18 vision period, as determined by the crime of conviction, pursuant to sub-
19 subparagraph (d)(1)(A), (d)(1)(B) or (d)(1)(C). Early discharge from
20 postrelease supervision is at the discretion of the parole board.

21 (vii) Persons convicted of crimes deemed sexually violent or sexually
22 motivated, shall be registered according to the habitual sex offender reg-
23 istration act, K.S.A. 22-4901 through 22-4910 and amendments thereto.

24 (E) The period of postrelease supervision provided in subparagraphs
25 (A) and (B) may be reduced by up to 12 months and the period of post-
26 release supervision provided in subparagraph (C) may be reduced by up
27 to six months based on the offender's compliance with conditions of su-
28 pervision and overall performance while on postrelease supervision. The
29 reduction in the supervision period shall be on an earned basis pursuant
30 to rules and regulations adopted by the secretary of corrections.

31 (F) In cases where sentences for crimes from more than one severity
32 level have been imposed, the offender shall serve the longest period of
33 postrelease supervision as provided by this section available for any crime
34 upon which sentence was imposed irrespective of the severity level of the
35 crime. Supervision periods will not aggregate.

36 (2) As used in this section, "sexually violent crime" means:

37 (A) Rape, K.S.A. 21-3502, and amendments thereto;

38 (B) indecent liberties with a child, K.S.A. 21-3503, and amendments
39 thereto;

40 (C) aggravated indecent liberties with a child, K.S.A. 21-3504, and
41 amendments thereto;

42 (D) criminal sodomy, subsection (a)(2) and (a)(3) of K.S.A. 21-3505
43 and amendments thereto;

1 (E) aggravated criminal sodomy, K.S.A. 21-3506, and amendments
2 thereto;

3 (F) indecent solicitation of a child, K.S.A. 21-3510, and amendments
4 thereto;

5 (G) aggravated indecent solicitation of a child, K.S.A. 21-3511, and
6 amendments thereto;

7 (H) sexual exploitation of a child, K.S.A. 21-3516, and amendments
8 thereto;

9 (I) aggravated sexual battery, K.S.A. 21-3518, and amendments
10 thereto;

11 (J) any conviction for a felony offense in effect at any time prior to
12 the effective date of this act, that is comparable to a sexually violent crime
13 as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (I), or any federal or other state
14 conviction for a felony offense that under the laws of this state would be
15 a sexually violent crime as defined in this section;

16 (K) an attempt, conspiracy or criminal solicitation, as defined in
17 K.S.A. 21-3301, 21-3302, 21-3303, and amendments thereto, of a sexually
18 violent crime as defined in this section; or

19 (L) any act which at the time of sentencing for the offense has been
20 determined beyond a reasonable doubt to have been sexually motivated.
21 As used in this subparagraph, "sexually motivated" means that one of the
22 purposes for which the defendant committed the crime was for the pur-
23 pose of the defendant's sexual gratification.

24 (e) If an inmate is sentenced to imprisonment for a crime committed
25 while on parole or conditional release, the inmate shall be eligible for
26 parole as provided by subsection (c), except that the Kansas parole board
27 may postpone the inmate's parole eligibility date by assessing a penalty
28 not exceeding the period of time which could have been assessed if the
29 inmate's parole or conditional release had been violated for reasons other
30 than conviction of a crime.

31 (f) If a person is sentenced to prison for a crime committed on or
32 after July 1, 1993, while on probation, parole, conditional release or in a
33 community corrections program, for a crime committed prior to July 1,
34 1993, and the person is not eligible for retroactive application of the
35 sentencing guidelines and amendments thereto pursuant to K.S.A. 21-
36 4724 and amendments thereto, the new sentence shall not be aggregated
37 with the old sentence, but shall begin when the person is paroled or
38 reaches the conditional release date on the old sentence. If the offender
39 was past the offender's conditional release date at the time the new of-
40 fense was committed, the new sentence shall not be aggregated with the
41 old sentence but shall begin when the person is ordered released by the
42 Kansas parole board or reaches the maximum sentence expiration date
43 on the old sentence, whichever is earlier. The new sentence shall then

1 be served as otherwise provided by law. The period of postrelease su-
2 pervision shall be based on the new sentence, except that those offenders
3 whose old sentence is a term of imprisonment for life, imposed pursuant
4 to K.S.A. 1993 Supp. 21-4628 prior to its repeal, or an indeterminate
5 sentence with a maximum term of life imprisonment, for which there is
6 no conditional release or maximum sentence expiration date, shall remain
7 on postrelease supervision for life or until discharged from supervision
8 by the Kansas parole board.

9 (g) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Kansas parole board
10 may release on parole those persons confined in institutions who are el-
11 igible for parole when: (1) The board believes that the inmate should be
12 released for hospitalization, for deportation or to answer the warrant or
13 other process of a court and is of the opinion that there is reasonable
14 probability that the inmate can be released without detriment to the com-
15 munity or to the inmate; or (2) the secretary of corrections has reported
16 to the board in writing that the inmate has satisfactorily completed the
17 programs required by any agreement entered under K.S.A. 75-5210a and
18 amendments thereto, or any revision of such agreement, and the board
19 believes that the inmate is able and willing to fulfill the obligations of a
20 law abiding citizen and is of the opinion that there is reasonable proba-
21 bility that the inmate can be released without detriment to the community
22 or to the inmate. Parole shall not be granted as an award of clemency and
23 shall not be considered a reduction of sentence or a pardon.

24 (h) The Kansas parole board shall hold a parole hearing at least the
25 month prior to the month an inmate will be eligible for parole under
26 subsections (a), (b) and (c). At least the month preceding the parole hear-
27 ing, the county or district attorney of the county where the inmate was
28 convicted shall give written notice of the time and place of the public
29 comment sessions for the inmate to any victim of the inmate's crime who
30 is alive and whose address is known to the county or district attorney or,
31 if the victim is deceased, to the victim's family if the family's address is
32 known to the county or district attorney. Except as otherwise provided,
33 failure to notify pursuant to this section shall not be a reason to postpone
34 a parole hearing. In the case of any inmate convicted of a class A felony
35 the secretary of corrections shall give written notice of the time and place
36 of the public comment session for such inmate at least one month pre-
37 ceeding the public comment session to any victim of such inmate's crime
38 or the victim's family pursuant to K.S.A. 74-7338 and amendments
39 thereto. If notification is not given to such victim or such victim's family
40 in the case of any inmate convicted of a class A felony, the board shall
41 postpone a decision on parole of the inmate to a time at least 30 days
42 after notification is given as provided in this section. Nothing in this sec-
43 tion shall create a cause of action against the state or an employee of the

1 state acting within the scope of the employee's employment as a result
2 of the failure to notify pursuant to this section. If granted parole, the
3 inmate may be released on parole on the date specified by the board, but
4 not earlier than the date the inmate is eligible for parole under subsec-
5 tions (a), (b) and (c). At each parole hearing and, if parole is not granted,
6 at such intervals thereafter as it determines appropriate, the Kansas parole
7 board shall consider: (1) Whether the inmate has satisfactorily completed
8 the programs required by any agreement entered under K.S.A. 75-5210a
9 and amendments thereto, or any revision of such agreement; and (2) all
10 pertinent information regarding such inmate, including, but not limited
11 to, the circumstances of the offense of the inmate; the presentence report;
12 the previous social history and criminal record of the inmate; the conduct,
13 employment, and attitude of the inmate in prison; the reports of such
14 physical and mental examinations as have been made; comments of the
15 victim and the victim's family including in person comments, contem-
16 poraneous comments and prerecorded comments made by any techno-
17 logical means; comments of the public; official comments; and capacity
18 of state correctional institutions.

19 (i) In those cases involving inmates sentenced for a crime committed
20 after July 1, 1993, the parole board will review the inmates proposed
21 release plan. The board may schedule a hearing if they desire. The board
22 may impose any condition they deem necessary to insure public safety,
23 aid in the reintegration of the inmate into the community, or items not
24 completed under the agreement entered into under K.S.A. 75-5210a and
25 amendments thereto. The board may not advance or delay an inmate's
26 release date. Every inmate while on postrelease supervision shall remain
27 in the legal custody of the secretary of corrections and is subject to the
28 orders of the secretary.

29 (j) Before ordering the parole of any inmate, the Kansas parole board
30 shall have the inmate appear before either in person or via a video con-
31 ferencing format and shall interview the inmate unless impractical be-
32 cause of the inmate's physical or mental condition or absence from the
33 institution. Every inmate while on parole shall remain in the legal custody
34 of the secretary of corrections and is subject to the orders of the secretary.
35 Whenever the Kansas parole board formally considers placing an inmate
36 on parole and no agreement has been entered into with the inmate under
37 K.S.A. 75-5210a and amendments thereto, the board shall notify the in-
38 mate in writing of the reasons for not granting parole. If an agreement
39 has been entered under K.S.A. 75-5210a and amendments thereto and
40 the inmate has not satisfactorily completed the programs specified in the
41 agreement, or any revision of such agreement, the board shall notify the
42 inmate in writing of the specific programs the inmate must satisfactorily
43 complete before parole will be granted. If parole is not granted only

1 because of a failure to satisfactorily complete such programs, the board
2 shall grant parole upon the secretary's certification that the inmate has
3 successfully completed such programs. If an agreement has been entered
4 under K.S.A. 75-5210a and amendments thereto and the secretary of
5 corrections has reported to the board in writing that the inmate has sat-
6 isfactorily completed the programs required by such agreement, or any
7 revision thereof, the board shall not require further program participa-
8 tion. However, if the board determines that other pertinent information
9 regarding the inmate warrants the inmate's not being released on parole,
10 the board shall state in writing the reasons for not granting the parole. If
11 parole is denied for an inmate sentenced for a crime other than a class A
12 or class B felony or an off-grid felony, the board shall hold another parole
13 hearing for the inmate not later than one year after the denial unless the
14 parole board finds that it is not reasonable to expect that parole would
15 be granted at a hearing if held in the next three years or during the interim
16 period of a deferral. In such case, the parole board may defer subsequent
17 parole hearings for up to three years but any such deferral by the board
18 shall require the board to state the basis for its findings. If parole is denied
19 for an inmate sentenced for a class A or class B felony or an off-grid
20 felony, the board shall hold another parole hearing for the inmate not
21 later than three years after the denial unless the parole board finds that
22 it is not reasonable to expect that parole would be granted at a hearing if
23 held in the next 10 years or during the interim period of a deferral. In
24 such case, the parole board may defer subsequent parole hearings for up
25 to 10 years but any such deferral shall require the board to state the basis
26 for its findings.

27 (k) Parolees and persons on postrelease supervision shall be assigned,
28 upon release, to the appropriate level of supervision pursuant to the cri-
29 teria established by the secretary of corrections.

30 (l) (1) *Parole hearings and parole violation hearings conducted by*
31 *the Kansas parole board shall not be subject to the open meetings act.*

32 (2) The Kansas parole board shall adopt rules and regulations in ac-
33 cordance with K.S.A. 77-415 *et seq.*, and amendments thereto, not in-
34 consistent with the law and as it may deem proper or necessary, with
35 respect to the conduct of parole hearings, postrelease supervision reviews,
36 revocation hearings, orders of restitution, reimbursement of expenditures
37 by the state board of indigents' defense services and other conditions to
38 be imposed upon parolees or releasees. Whenever an order for parole or
39 postrelease supervision is issued it shall recite the conditions thereof.

40 (m) Whenever the Kansas parole board orders the parole of an in-
41 mate or establishes conditions for an inmate placed on postrelease su-
42 pervision, the board:

43 (1) Unless it finds compelling circumstances which would render a

1 plan of payment unworkable, shall order as a condition of parole or post-
2 release supervision that the parolee or the person on postrelease super-
3 vision pay any transportation expenses resulting from returning the pa-
4 rolee or the person on postrelease supervision to this state to answer
5 criminal charges or a warrant for a violation of a condition of probation,
6 assignment to a community correctional services program, parole, con-
7 ditional release or postrelease supervision;

8 (2) to the extent practicable, shall order as a condition of parole or
9 postrelease supervision that the parolee or the person on postrelease su-
10 pervision make progress towards or successfully complete the equivalent
11 of a secondary education if the inmate has not previously completed such
12 educational equivalent and is capable of doing so;

13 (3) may order that the parolee or person on postrelease supervision
14 perform community or public service work for local governmental agen-
15 cies, private corporations organized not-for-profit or charitable or social
16 service organizations performing services for the community;

17 (4) may order the parolee or person on postrelease supervision to pay
18 the administrative fee imposed pursuant to K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 22-4529,
19 and amendments thereto, unless the board finds compelling circum-
20 stances which would render payment unworkable; and

21 (5) unless it finds compelling circumstances which would render a
22 plan of payment unworkable, shall order that the parolee or person on
23 postrelease supervision reimburse the state for all or part of the expend-
24 itures by the state board of indigents' defense services to provide counsel
25 and other defense services to the person. In determining the amount and
26 method of payment of such sum, the parole board shall take account of
27 the financial resources of the person and the nature of the burden that
28 the payment of such sum will impose. Such amount shall not exceed the
29 amount claimed by appointed counsel on the payment voucher for indi-
30 gents' defense services or the amount prescribed by the board of indi-
31 gents' defense services reimbursement tables as provided in K.S.A. 22-
32 4522 and amendments thereto, whichever is less, minus any previous
33 payments for such services.

34 (n) If the court which sentenced an inmate specified at the time of
35 sentencing the amount and the recipient of any restitution ordered as a
36 condition of parole or postrelease supervision, the Kansas parole board
37 shall order as a condition of parole or postrelease supervision that the
38 inmate pay restitution in the amount and manner provided in the journal
39 entry unless the board finds compelling circumstances which would ren-
40 der a plan of restitution unworkable.

41 (o) Whenever the Kansas parole board grants the parole of an inmate,
42 the board, within 10 days of the date of the decision to grant parole, shall
43 give written notice of the decision to the county or district attorney of the

1 county where the inmate was sentenced.

2 (p) When an inmate is to be released on postrelease supervision, the
3 secretary, within 30 days prior to release, shall provide the county or
4 district attorney of the county where the inmate was sentenced written
5 notice of the release date.

6 (q) Inmates shall be released on postrelease supervision upon the
7 termination of the prison portion of their sentence. Time served while
8 on postrelease supervision will vest.

9 (r) An inmate who is allocated regular good time credits as provided
10 in K.S.A. 22-3725 and amendments thereto may receive meritorious good
11 time credits in increments of not more than 90 days per meritorious act.
12 These credits may be awarded by the secretary of corrections when an
13 inmate has acted in a heroic or outstanding manner in coming to the
14 assistance of another person in a life threatening situation, preventing
15 injury or death to a person, preventing the destruction of property or
16 taking actions which result in a financial savings to the state.

17 (s) The provisions of subsections (d)(1)(A), (d)(1)(B), (d)(1)(C) and
18 (d)(1)(E) shall be applied retroactively as provided in subsection (t).

19 (t) For offenders sentenced prior to the effective date of this act who
20 are eligible for modification of their postrelease supervision obligation,
21 the department of corrections shall modify the period of postrelease su-
22 pervision as provided for by this section for offenders convicted of severity
23 level 9 and 10 crimes on the sentencing guidelines grid for nondrug
24 crimes and severity level 4 crimes on the sentencing guidelines grid for
25 drug crimes on or before September 1, 2000; for offenders convicted of
26 severity level 7 and 8 crimes on the sentencing guidelines grid for nondrug
27 crimes on or before November 1, 2000; and for offenders convicted of
28 severity level 5 and 6 crimes on the sentencing guidelines grid for nondrug
29 crimes and severity level 3 crimes on the sentencing guidelines grid for
30 drug crimes on or before January 1, 2001.

31 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2001 Supp. 22-3717 is hereby repealed.

32 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
33 publication in the statute book.

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