



John Howard Association of Illinois

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HB 1695: Juvenile Lifer Assessment and Review

What HB 1695 Does

- Applies only to prisoners serving life sentences for crimes committed when they were under 18 years of age; approximately 103 prisoners in Illinois presently meet those criteria.
- After serving 20 years of his or her life sentence, an inmate in this category can apply, in a two-stage process, for an assessment and review by the Prisoner Review Board (PRB).
- At the first stage, a committee of the PRB will evaluate the inmate and will determine whether he or she is eligible to seek parole.
- The committee will base its evaluation on the record provided by the Illinois Department of Corrections, including the prisoner's criminal history, mittimus, disciplinary history, supplementary program considerations, mental health evaluations, social evaluations, and other related documents.
- At the second stage, an inmate who has been found eligible to seek parole shall be considered by the full PRB for parole on the same basis that the PRB considers parole for indeterminately sentenced prisoners.
- If the PRB votes to grant parole to the prisoners, it can establish whatever conditions and terms of parole it finds appropriate.
- Inmate to whom the law applies may request an assessment annually.
- The PRB will formulate the application by which the inmates request an assessment by the PRB.
- Victims will be notified when a prisoner reaches the second stage, so that they can have input into the PRB's decision of whether to grant or deny parole.