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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 14**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL PAROLE FOR HIGH-RISK, VIOLENT AND SEXUAL OFFENDERS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes changes to sentencing laws as they pertain to special parole.

Specifically, the bill:

1. eliminates special parole as a sentencing option for convictions of offenses related to dependency-producing drugs;
2. prohibits the court from imposing a period of special parole unless it determines that special parole is necessary to ensure public safety; and
3. allows the Board of Pardons and Paroles to discharge, from Department of Correction (DOC) custody, a person on special parole who the board believes will lead an orderly life.

“Special parole” is parole ordered by the court as part of the sentence when someone is convicted of a crime. The judge can require a period of special parole under parole supervision after an offender completes his or her maximum prison sentence. Generally, the special parole period must be between one and 10 years. However, the court can impose a period of more than 10 years on certain sexual assault or persistent offenders (CGS § 54-125e).

The bill also makes minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

#### **SPECIAL PAROLE AS A SENTENCING OPTION**

Under current law, when a person is convicted of an offense, the

court must impose one of several sentences (see below), including a term of imprisonment and a period of special parole. The bill prohibits the court from imposing special parole as a possible sentence when the crime involves addictive drugs.

The bill also prohibits the court from imposing a period of special parole unless it determines that special parole is necessary to ensure public safety. Under the bill the court's determination must be based on the (1) nature and circumstances of the offense and (2) defendant's criminal record and probation and parole history.

### **DISCHARGE FROM DOC CUSTODY**

Under existing law, if a Board of Pardons and Paroles panel believes that a convict or inmate on parole or eligible for parole will lead an orderly life, the panel may declare him or her discharged from the custody of the DOC commissioner. The bill allows the panel to do the same for a convict or inmate pertaining to special parole.

As under existing law, the bill requires the panel to (1) do so by a unanimous vote of all the members present at the panel's regular meeting and (2) deliver a written certificate of its decision under the seal of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and signed by its chairman and the commissioner.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 38 Nay 1 (04/02/2018)