



Substitute Senate Bill No. 831

Public Act No. 19-84

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO SPECIAL PAROLE AND PAROLE DISCHARGE STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) Prior to the Board of Pardons and Paroles terminating a person's period of special parole pursuant to section 54-129 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the Office of Victim Services, within the Judicial Department, shall notify the victim of the crime for which the person is serving a period of special parole who is registered with the Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department or registered with the Victim Services Unit within the Department of Correction, of the board's intent to consider the termination of such person's period of special parole. Any victim may submit a statement to the board concerning whether such person's period of special parole should be terminated. For the purposes of this section, "victim" means a victim, as defined in section 54-126a of the general statutes.

Sec. 2. Section 54-129 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) If it appears to the appropriate panel of the Board of Pardons and Paroles that any [convict or inmate] person on parole or inmate

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eligible for parole or [on] any person serving a period of special parole will lead an orderly life, the panel, by a unanimous vote, [of all the members present at any regular meeting of the panel,] may (1) declare such [convict] person on parole or inmate discharged from the custody of the Commissioner of Correction, [and shall thereupon deliver to him or her a written] or (2) at any time during such person's period of special parole, terminate such period, without a court order, before such person completes such period.

(b) Whenever any inmate has been discharged from the custody of the Commissioner of Correction or whenever any person's period of special parole has been terminated, the chairperson shall issue a certificate to that effect under the seal of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. [and signed by the chairperson of the board and the commissioner.]

Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 54-124a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(e) (1) Each parole release panel shall be composed of [two] three members, [and] one of whom shall be the chairperson or a full-time member designated by the chairperson to serve temporarily as chairperson. [On and after January 1, 2016, not less than three members shall be present at each parole hearing.]

(2) Each pardons panel shall be composed of three members, one of whom may be the chairperson, except that for hearings on commutations from the penalty of death, one member of the panel shall be the chairperson.

(3) Each panel that discharges persons on parole from the custody of the Commissioner of Correction or that terminates the period of special parole for persons shall be composed of three members, one of

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whom shall be the chairperson or a full-time member designated by the chairperson to serve temporarily as chairperson.

Sec. 4. Subsection (f) of section 54-124a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(f) The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall have independent decision-making authority to (1) grant or deny parole in accordance with sections 54-125, 54-125a, 54-125e and 54-125g, (2) establish conditions of parole or special parole supervision in accordance with section 54-126, (3) rescind or revoke parole or special parole in accordance with sections 54-127 and 54-128, (4) grant commutations of punishment or releases, conditioned or absolute, in the case of any person convicted of any offense against the state and commutations from the penalty of death in accordance with section 54-130a, (5) discharge any person on parole or inmate eligible for parole from the custody of the Commissioner of Correction pursuant to section 54-129, as amended by this act, and (6) terminate special parole in accordance with section 54-129, as amended by this act.

Approved July 1, 2019