

HB 739 -- Board of Probation and Parole

Sponsor: Lowe (44)

This bill changes the laws regarding parole. An offender is eligible for parole even though he or she was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole when:

- (1) The offender was convicted of killing his or her spouse;
- (2) The offender had no prior felony convictions at the time of the sentencing;
- (3) The offender has exhausted all possible appeals in both state and federal court; and
- (4) The offender has served at least 15 years of the sentence.

The Board of Probation and Parole is required every three years to thoroughly review the case history of all offenders who were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole and prepare a report to the Governor with a recommendation to either grant or deny executive clemency. Criteria are established to be used by the board when conducting its reviews and making recommendations.