

HB 745 -- Sexual Offenders

Sponsor: Dixon

This bill changes the laws regarding the sentencing of sex offenders. The penalty for persons sentenced as predatory sex offenders is increased to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Currently, some predatory sex offenders are eligible for parole after serving 15 years.

Persons sentenced as persistent sex offenders will be eligible for parole. Currently, persistent offenders convicted of committing or attempting to commit a class A felony sexual offense are sentenced to 30 years without the possibility of parole.

Currently, a life sentence is calculated as 30 years for the purpose of determining the minimum time to be served before becoming eligible for parole. When an offender is sentenced to more than 75 years because of multiple convictions, 75 years is used for the purpose of determining the minimum time to be served before becoming eligible for parole. Under the bill, these provisions do not apply to persons sentenced as persistent sex offenders, and the court is allowed to set the minimum term at any number of years, but not less than 30 years when the offender's conviction and prior conviction were both class A felony sexual offenses. For all other persistent sex offender cases, the minimum term cannot be less than 15 years.