

## HB 1703 -- Eligibility for Parole

Sponsor: Lair

This bill specifies that any person who was found guilty of a homicide but did not actually commit the murder or who had a history of being a victim of continual and substantial physical or sexual domestic violence that was not presented at trial or sentencing and the abuse resulted in the defendant's inability to make good decisions and there is substantiated evidence of mental impairment must be eligible for parole after having served 20 years of the sentence. Currently, those offenders must serve 15 years. Certain other offenders serving a life sentence without parole or life without parole for 50 years will also be required to serve 20 years, instead of 15, before being eligible for parole.

The bill also specifies that when the Board of Probation and Parole within the Department of Corrections is making parole decisions, it must consider if an offender was gainfully employed or attending high school, college, or vocational technical school prior to the crime.