

HB 1995 -- JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SPONSOR: Cornejo

This bill repeals the mandatory life sentence and allows an individual who was under 18 years of age at the time of the commission of his or her offense and was sentenced to a cumulative total of more than 40 years the right to a youth offender parole hearing to determine parole eligibility, as specified in the bill, on the 30th year of their incarceration.

The bill provides that anyone who was sentenced to life without parole and was under the age of 18 at the time he or she committed the offense will have an opportunity to petition the court for a review of his or her sentence, as specified in these provisions.

The bill specifies that an individual found guilty of murder in the first degree who was under the age of 18 may only be sentenced to 25 to 40 years or life imprisonment with parole and specifies the factors the court must consider when assessing the punishment.

ARMED OFFENDER DOCKET PILOT (Section 478.525, RSMo)

This bill establishes the Armed Offender Docket Pilot Project in Jackson County Circuit Court. The court has the option to establish or decline to establish the docket. If established, the docket must have dedicated judges and other personnel for specified types of crimes. The circuit court may impose a \$30 surcharge for each case that it hears to defray its operating costs. The bill requires the circuit court to coordinate the sharing of court data with law enforcement and other criminal justice personnel and to provide a public report on operations every year within six months of each anniversary of the creation of the docket. Information that is protected from disclosure by statute or privilege is subject to disclosure only by court order.

The bill prohibits those who are convicted of offenses which result in the death of one or more persons from petitioning the court to reduce the term of sentence or probation imposed by the court.

This bill is similar to HCS SB 200 (2015).