

HB 2333 -- MINIMUM PRISON TERMS

SPONSOR: Price

Currently, the law establishes mandatory minimum prison terms for both offenders who have been found guilty of a dangerous felony and offenders who have been found guilty of a felony other than a dangerous felony.

If an offender who has been found guilty of a felony other than a dangerous felony has one, two, or three prior commitments to the Department of Corrections, he or she is required to serve 40%, 50%, or 80% of his or her sentence or until the offender reaches the age of 70 and has served 30% or 40% of the sentence. This bill specifies that, the age for the alternative minimum prison term is reduced from 70 to 65.

A person committed to the Department of Corrections for a dangerous felony conviction is required to serve at least 85% of his or her sentence or until he or she reaches the age of 70 and has served at least 40% of the sentence. This bill provides that, the minimum prison term for such a person is tiered depending on whether the offender has any previous commitments to the department and, if so, how many and the age for the alternative minimum prison term is reduced to 65:

(1) If the offender has no previous prison commitment, he or she must serve 50% of the sentence imposed or until he or she has reached the age of 65 and has served 40% of the sentence;

(2) If the offender has one previous commitment he or she must serve 66% of the sentence imposed or until he or she reaches the age of 65 and has served 50% of the sentence; or

(3) If the offender has two or more previous commitments, he or she must serve 85% of the sentence imposed or until he or she reaches the age of 65 and has served at least 60% of the sentence.