

HB 2204 -- ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE

SPONSOR: Collins

This bill authorizes the parole board to reduce sentences of life without eligibility for probation or parole if a convicted person has served at least 30 years in the Department of Corrections, was under 20 years old at the time the offense was committed, has not been previously convicted of a dangerous felony, and has made specified reasonable efforts towards rehabilitation. Additionally, the victim's family must be given the opportunity to make recommendations with respect to the offender's parole or probation modification.

Prior to any reduction of an offender's sentence, the Department shall conduct and submit to the parole board a prerelease assessment that includes recommendations for the terms and conditions of an offender's release. The bill specifies what must be incorporated in the prerelease assessment.

The Division of Probation and Parole within the Department of Corrections must supervise each offender receiving a reduction of sentence for the duration of their natural life, based on a GPS system or other identifying monitoring technology, and the offender must attend weekly supervision meetings with their parole officer for the first three years following the reduction of their sentence; beginning in year four, and every three years thereafter, the terms of supervision must be reviewed by the parole board and may be reduced to lesser supervision requirements as determined by the board.

This bill is similar to HB 893 (2023).