

HB 2186 -- TRIAL PROCEDURE FOR MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE

SPONSOR: Mackey

Currently, if a jury cannot decide or agree on a defendant's punishment upon conviction of first degree murder, the jury is instructed that the court will assess and declare the punishment at life imprisonment without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of the Governor or death. This bill removes death as an option for the court to declare as punishment in cases where the jury cannot decide or agree upon the punishment.

This bill is similar to HB 452 (2025) and HB 1949 (2024).