



PA 18-63—sSB 14
Judiciary Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL PAROLE FOR HIGH-RISK,
VIOLENT AND SEXUAL OFFENDERS**

SUMMARY: This act makes changes in sentencing laws related to special parole.

Specifically, the act:

1. eliminates special parole as a sentencing option for convictions of offenses related to dependency-producing drugs;
2. prohibits the court from imposing a period of special parole unless it determines that special parole is necessary to ensure public safety, based on the nature and circumstances of the offense and the defendant's criminal record and probation and parole history; and
3. allows the Board of Pardons and Paroles to discharge, from Department of Correction (DOC) custody, a person on special parole who the board believes will lead an orderly life.

“Special parole” is parole ordered by the court as part of the sentence when someone is convicted of a crime. The judge can require a period of special parole under parole supervision after an offender completes his or her maximum prison sentence. Generally, the special parole period must be between one and 10 years. However, the court can impose a period of more than 10 years on certain sexual assault or persistent offenders (CGS § 54-125e).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

DISCHARGE FROM DOC CUSTODY

Under existing law, if a Board of Pardons and Paroles panel believes that a convict or inmate on parole or eligible for parole will lead an orderly life, the panel may declare him or her discharged from DOC custody. The act allows the panel to do the same for a convict or inmate on special parole.

As under existing law, the act (1) allows the panel to do so by a unanimous vote of all the members present at the panel's regular meeting and (2) requires the panel to deliver a written certificate of its decision under the board's seal and signed by its chairperson and the commissioner.