



General Assembly

**Raised Bill No. 952**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 3230



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING PAROLE ELIGIBILITY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL SERVING A LENGTHY SENTENCE FOR A CRIME COMMITTED BEFORE THE INDIVIDUAL REACHED THE AGE OF TWENTY-FIVE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 54-125a of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2023*):

4 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (e),  
5 inclusive, of this section, a person convicted of one or more crimes  
6 committed while such person was under [~~eighteen~~] twenty-five years  
7 of age, who is incarcerated on or after October 1, 2015, and who  
8 received a definite sentence or total effective sentence of more than ten  
9 years for such crime or crimes prior to, on or after October 1, 2015, may  
10 be allowed to go at large on parole in the discretion of the panel of the  
11 Board of Pardons and Paroles for the institution in which such person  
12 is confined, provided (A) if such person is serving a sentence of fifty  
13 years or less, such person shall be eligible for parole after serving sixty  
14 per cent of the sentence or twelve years, whichever is greater, or (B) if  
15 such person is serving a sentence of more than fifty years, such person

16 shall be eligible for parole after serving thirty years. Nothing in this  
17 subsection shall limit a person's eligibility for parole release under the  
18 provisions of subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section if such  
19 person would be eligible for parole release at an earlier date under any  
20 of such provisions.

21 (2) The board shall apply the parole eligibility rules of this  
22 subsection only with respect to the sentence for a crime or crimes  
23 committed while a person was under [~~eighteen~~] twenty-five years of  
24 age. Any portion of a sentence that is based on a crime or crimes  
25 committed while a person was [~~eighteen~~] twenty-five years of age or  
26 older shall be subject to the applicable parole eligibility, suitability and  
27 release rules set forth in subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section.

28 (3) Whenever a person becomes eligible for parole release pursuant  
29 to this subsection, the board shall hold a hearing to determine such  
30 person's suitability for parole release. At least twelve months prior to  
31 such hearing, the board shall notify the office of Chief Public Defender,  
32 the appropriate state's attorney, the Victim Services Unit within the  
33 Department of Correction, the Office of the Victim Advocate and the  
34 Office of Victim Services within the Judicial Department of such  
35 person's eligibility for parole release pursuant to this subsection. The  
36 office of Chief Public Defender shall assign counsel for such person  
37 pursuant to section 51-296 if such person is indigent. At any hearing to  
38 determine such person's suitability for parole release pursuant to this  
39 subsection, the board shall permit (A) such person to make a statement  
40 on such person's behalf, (B) counsel for such person and the state's  
41 attorney to submit reports and other documents, and (C) any victim of  
42 the crime or crimes to make a statement pursuant to section 54-126a.  
43 The board may request testimony from mental health professionals or  
44 other relevant witnesses, and reports from the Commissioner of  
45 Correction or other persons, as the board may require. The board shall  
46 use validated risk assessment and needs assessment tools and its risk-  
47 based structured decision making and release criteria established  
48 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 54-124a in making a

49 determination pursuant to this subsection.

50 (4) After such hearing, the board may allow such person to go at  
51 large on parole with respect to any portion of a sentence that was  
52 based on a crime or crimes committed while such person was under  
53 [eighteen] twenty-five years of age if the board finds that such parole  
54 release would be consistent with the factors set forth in subdivisions  
55 (1) to (4), inclusive, of subsection (c) of section 54-300 and if it appears,  
56 from all available information, including, but not limited to, any  
57 reports from the Commissioner of Correction, that (A) there is a  
58 reasonable probability that such person will live and remain at liberty  
59 without violating the law, (B) the benefits to such person and society  
60 that would result from such person's release to community supervision  
61 substantially outweigh the benefits to such person and society that  
62 would result from such person's continued incarceration, and (C) such  
63 person has demonstrated substantial rehabilitation since the date such  
64 crime or crimes were committed considering such person's character,  
65 background and history, as demonstrated by factors, including, but  
66 not limited to, such person's correctional record, the age and  
67 circumstances of such person as of the date of the commission of the  
68 crime or crimes, whether such person has demonstrated remorse and  
69 increased maturity since the date of the commission of the crime or  
70 crimes, such person's contributions to the welfare of other persons  
71 through service, such person's efforts to overcome substance abuse,  
72 addiction, trauma, lack of education or obstacles that such person may  
73 have faced as a [child or youth] person under twenty-five years of age  
74 in the adult correctional system, the opportunities for rehabilitation in  
75 the adult correctional system and the overall degree of such person's  
76 rehabilitation considering the nature and circumstances of the crime or  
77 crimes.

78 (5) After such hearing, the board shall articulate for the record its  
79 decision and the reasons for its decision. If the board determines that  
80 continued confinement is necessary, the board may reassess such  
81 person's suitability for a new parole hearing at a later date to be

82 determined at the discretion of the board, but not earlier than two  
83 years after the date of its decision.

84 (6) The decision of the board under this subsection shall not be  
85 subject to appeal.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                        |            |
| Section 1   | <i>October 1, 2023</i> | 54-125a(f) |

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable*