

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to parole eligibility; amending s.  
 3           947.002, F.S.; revising legislative intent concerning  
 4           the granting of parole; creating s. 947.136, F.S.;  
 5           requiring the Florida Commission on Offender Review  
 6           and the Department of Corrections to jointly develop a  
 7           voluntary long-term inmate program; requiring the  
 8           program to be offered to male and female inmates  
 9           equally; requiring the program to provide evidence-  
 10          based programming to certain inmates; establishing  
 11          eligibility for referral for participation in the  
 12          program; providing program requirements; providing  
 13          that inmates may be removed from the program under  
 14          certain circumstances; requiring a certificate of  
 15          completion upon successful completion of the program;  
 16          providing that successful completion of the program  
 17          does not guarantee parole; requiring rulemaking;  
 18          providing an effective date.

19  
 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
 22           Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 947.002,  
 23 Florida Statutes, to read:

24           947.002 Intent.—

25           (6) The commission shall consider an inmate's

26 institutional achievements, lack of disciplinary report, and all  
27 indications of the lack of risk to the public in the decision to  
28 parole an inmate from the incarceration portion of his or her  
29 sentence.

30 Section 2. Section 947.136, Florida Statutes, is created  
31 to read:

32 947.136 Long-Term Inmate Program.—

33 (1) The commission and the department shall jointly  
34 develop a long-term inmate program, housed within the  
35 department, for inmates who are eligible for parole under this  
36 chapter to prepare such inmates for reintegration into the  
37 community. The program shall be offered on an equal basis to  
38 male and female inmates.

39 (2) The long-term inmate program is a voluntary program  
40 that provides evidence-based programming to inmates who are  
41 within 3 years of their presumptive parole release date as  
42 established by the commission under s. 947.172.

43 (3) Inmates must be referred by the commission for  
44 participation in the long-term inmate program prior to the  
45 department placing the inmate into the program. An inmate who  
46 meets all of the following criteria may be referred by the  
47 commission for placement into the long-term inmate program:

48 (a) Does not have factors, as identified in rule, which  
49 would preclude placement at an institution operating a long-term  
50 inmate program.

51 (b) Must be serving a parole-eligible sentence. Inmates  
52 who have subsequently received a parole-ineligible sentence may  
53 be considered for participation on a case-by-case basis.

54 (4) To successfully complete the long-term inmate program,  
55 inmates participating must, at a minimum:

56 (a) Complete at least 250 hours of community service  
57 projects, as approved by the department.

58 (b) Participate in at least 100 hours of enrichment  
59 programs, as defined by rule.

60 (c) Complete an evidence-based curriculum as provided in  
61 rule which, at a minimum, addresses:

62 1. Anger management.

63 2. Criminal thinking.

64 3. Educational and vocational needs.

65 4. Family relationships.

66 5. Lifestyle and wellness.

67 6. Substance use disorder treatment.

68 7. Victim impact.

69 (5) Inmates participating in the long-term inmate program  
70 are expected to perform their duties and assignments as  
71 instructed by their assignment supervisor. Inmates who fail to  
72 complete duties and assignments as instructed may be removed  
73 from the program.

74 (6) Upon successful completion of the program, an inmate  
75 shall be awarded a certificate of completion. Successful

76 | completion of the program does not guarantee that an inmate will  
77 | be paroled and program participation may not extend the length  
78 | of the inmate's sentence.

79 | (7) The commission and the department shall adopt rules as  
80 | necessary to implement the long-term inmate program.

81 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.