

# ACT No. 660

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 723

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHLEGEL

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:572(A), 572.4(B)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (a) and (3)  
3 and (C) through (E), and 572.5(B) and to enact R.S. 15:572.4(F) and (G) and  
4 574.6.2, relative to clemency; to provide relative to notification procedures; to  
5 provide relative to the approval or rejection of a favorable recommendation for  
6 commutation or pardon; to provide relative to application procedures; to provide  
7 relative to clemency hearings; to provide relative to clemency investigations; to  
8 provide relative to the supervised release of certain offenders; to provide for  
9 evaluations; to provide for duties of the Department of Public Safety and  
10 Corrections; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 15:572(A), 572.4(B)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (a) and (3) and  
13 (C) through (E), and 572.5(B) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 15:572.4(F) and  
14 (G) and 574.6.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §572. Powers of governor to grant reprieves and pardons; automatic pardon for first  
16 offender; payment of court costs required

17 A.(1) The governor may grant reprieves to persons convicted of offenses  
18 against the state and, upon recommendation of the Board of Pardons as hereinafter  
19 provided for by this Part, may commute sentences, pardon those convicted of  
20 offenses against the state, and remit fines and forfeitures imposed for such offenses.  
21 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the governor shall not grant  
22 any pardon to any person unless that person has paid all of the court costs which  
23 were imposed in connection with the conviction of the crime for which the pardon  
24 is to be issued.



1 journal of the governing authority of the parish where the offense occurred for which  
2 the person was convicted.

3 D.(1) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary Except as  
4 provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, any applicant who has been sentenced  
5 to life imprisonment shall not be eligible to apply to the board for a pardon or  
6 commutation of sentence for a period of fifteen years after being sentenced by the  
7 trial court, except that periods of time prior to the imposition of the sentence in  
8 which the defendant was in actual custody for the offense for which he was  
9 sentenced to life imprisonment shall be included in computing the fifteen-year  
10 period.

11 (2) Any applicant who has been sentenced to life imprisonment for an  
12 offense that is either a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B) or a sex offense  
13 as defined in R.S. 15:541 shall not be eligible to apply to the board for a pardon or  
14 commutation of sentence for a period of twenty-five years after being sentenced by  
15 the trial court, except that periods of time prior to the imposition of the sentence in  
16 which the defendant was in actual custody for the offense for which he was  
17 sentenced to life imprisonment shall be included in computing the twenty-five-year  
18 period. A person who is serving a life sentence resulting from a commutation of a  
19 sentence of death shall not thereafter be eligible to apply for commutation of  
20 sentence to a specific number of years.

21 (3) If the application is denied, the applicant shall be notified in writing of  
22 the reason for the denial and thereafter may file a new application to the board no  
23 earlier than five years from the date of action by the board. Any subsequent  
24 applications shall not be filed earlier than five years after the immediately preceding  
25 action taken by the board.

26 (4) However, the The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply when the  
27 board determines that new and material evidence that, notwithstanding the exercise  
28 of reasonable diligence by the applicant, was not discovered before or during his  
29 trial, is available, and if it had been introduced at the trial, it would probably have  
30 changed the verdict or judgment of guilty.



1                   (2) In approving the residence plan of the offender, the department shall  
2                   consider the likelihood that the offender will be able to comply with all of the  
3                   conditions of his parole.

4                   B. The committee on parole may impose any special conditions of  
5                   supervision which may include participation in additional programming by the  
6                   offender as determined to be necessary by the validated risk-assessment instrument.

7                   C. The department shall secure all relevant data and assist the offender in  
8                   formulating a release plan that includes any necessary conditions as determined by  
9                   the department.

10                  D. Any offender who has received a commuted sentence and who is released  
11                  shall be placed on supervised release for the remainder of his sentence.

12                  E. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person  
13                  who was placed upon supervised release pursuant to the provisions of this Section  
14                  may petition the parole board for a termination of the supervision.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_