

# SENATE BILL 225

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8lr2162

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By: **Senator Hough**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2018

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Eligibility for Parole – Life Imprisonment**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the amount of time that a certain inmate who has been  
4 sentenced to life imprisonment must serve before becoming eligible for parole  
5 consideration; and generally relating to eligibility for parole.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Correctional Services  
8 Section 7–301(d)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2017 Replacement Volume)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Correctional Services**

14 7–301.

15 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, an  
16 inmate who has been sentenced to life imprisonment is not eligible for parole consideration  
17 until the inmate has served [15] **20** years or the equivalent of [15] **20** years considering  
18 the allowances for diminution of the inmate’s term of confinement under § 6–218 of the  
19 Criminal Procedure Article and Title 3, Subtitle 7 of this article.

20 (2) An inmate who has been sentenced to life imprisonment as a result of  
21 a proceeding under former § 2–303 or § 2–304 of the Criminal Law Article is not eligible for  
22 parole consideration until the inmate has served 25 years or the equivalent of 25 years  
23 considering the allowances for diminution of the inmate’s term of confinement under §  
24 6–218 of the Criminal Procedure Article and Title 3, Subtitle 7 of this article.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (3)   (i)    If an inmate has been sentenced to imprisonment for life without  
2 the possibility of parole under § 2–203 or § 2–304 of the Criminal Law Article, the inmate  
3 is not eligible for parole consideration and may not be granted parole at any time during  
4 the inmate’s sentence.

5                   (ii)   This paragraph does not restrict the authority of the Governor to  
6 pardon or remit any part of a sentence under § 7–601 of this title.

7                   (4)   Subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection, if eligible for parole under  
8 this subsection, an inmate serving a term of life imprisonment may only be paroled with  
9 the approval of the Governor.

10                  (5)   (i)    If the Commission decides to grant parole to an inmate sentenced  
11 to life imprisonment who has served 25 years without application of diminution of  
12 confinement credits, the decision shall be transmitted to the Governor.

13                  (ii)   The Governor may disapprove the decision by written  
14 transmittal to the Commission.

15                  (iii)   If the Governor does not disapprove the decision within 180 days  
16 after receipt, the decision becomes effective.

17                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2018.