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HOUSE BILL 58

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

William "Bill" R. Rehm

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL SENTENCING; PROVIDING ADDITIONAL VIOLENT FELONIES IN THE CRIMINAL SENTENCING ACT FOR THE PURPOSES OF MANDATORY LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE FOR THREE VIOLENT FELONY CONVICTIONS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS THAT ALLOW FOR PAROLE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN CONVICTIONS INCURRED BY A DEFENDANT BEFORE THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN SHALL CONSTITUTE VIOLENT FELONIES; PROVIDING PENALTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 31-18-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1994, Chapter 24, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"31-18-23. THREE VIOLENT FELONY CONVICTIONS--MANDATORY LIFE IMPRISONMENT--EXCEPTION.--

A. When a defendant is convicted of a third violent

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1 felony, and each violent felony conviction is part of a
2 separate transaction or occurrence, and at least the third
3 violent felony conviction is in New Mexico, the defendant
4 shall, in addition to the sentence imposed for the third
5 violent felony conviction, be punished by a sentence of life
6 imprisonment. Except as provided in Subsection D of Section
7 31-21-10 NMSA 1978, the life imprisonment sentence shall not be
8 subject to parole [~~pursuant to the provisions of Section~~
9 ~~31-21-10 NMSA 1978~~].

10 B. The sentence of life imprisonment shall be
11 imposed after a sentencing hearing, separate from the trial or
12 guilty plea proceeding resulting in the third violent felony
13 conviction, pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-24 NMSA
14 1978.

15 C. For the purpose of this section, a violent
16 felony conviction incurred by a defendant before the defendant
17 reaches the age of eighteen shall not count as a violent felony
18 conviction, unless:

19 (1) the defendant was sentenced as an adult
20 pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15.3 or 32A-2-20
21 NMSA 1978; or

22 (2) in the case of a violent felony conviction
23 from another state, the defendant was sentenced as an adult
24 pursuant to the laws of that state.

25 D. When a defendant has a felony conviction from

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1 another state, the felony conviction shall be considered a
2 violent felony for the purposes of the Criminal Sentencing Act
3 if that crime would be considered a violent felony in New
4 Mexico.

5 E. As used in the Criminal Sentencing Act:

6 (1) "great bodily harm" means an injury to the
7 person that creates a high probability of death or that causes
8 serious disfigurement or that results in permanent loss or
9 impairment of the function of any member or organ of the body;
10 and

11 (2) "violent felony" means:

12 (a) murder in the first or second
13 degree, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

14 (b) voluntary manslaughter, as provided
15 in Subsection A of Section 30-2-3 NMSA 1978;

16 (c) involuntary manslaughter, as
17 provided in Subsection B of Section 30-2-3 NMSA 1978;

18 (d) aggravated battery, as provided in
19 Subsection C of Section 30-3-5 NMSA 1978;

20 (e) shooting at a dwelling or occupied
21 building resulting in great bodily harm, as provided in
22 Subsection A of Section 30-3-8 NMSA 1978;

23 [~~(b)~~] (f) shooting at or from a motor
24 vehicle resulting in great bodily harm, as provided in
25 Subsection B of Section 30-3-8 NMSA 1978;

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1 (g) aggravated battery against a
2 household member, as provided in Subsection C of Section
3 30-3-16 NMSA 1978;

4 [~~(e)~~] (h) kidnapping resulting in great
5 bodily harm inflicted upon the victim by the victim's captor,
6 as provided in Subsection B of Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978;

7 (i) abuse of a child that results in
8 great bodily harm to the child, as provided in Subsection E of
9 Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

10 (j) negligent abuse of a child that
11 results in the death of the child, as provided in Subsection F
12 of Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

13 (k) intentional abuse of a child that
14 results in the death of the child, as provided in Subsection G
15 or H of Section 30-6-1 NMSA 1978;

16 [~~(d)~~] (l) criminal sexual penetration,
17 as provided in Subsection C, [~~or~~] D, [~~or Paragraph (5) or (6)~~
18 ~~of Subsection~~] E or F of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978; [~~and~~

19 ~~(e)~~] (m) robbery while armed with a
20 deadly weapon [~~resulting in great bodily harm~~], as provided in
21 Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978 [~~and Subsection A of Section 30-1-12~~
22 ~~NMSA 1978~~];

23 (n) aggravated arson, as provided in
24 Section 30-17-6 NMSA 1978;

25 (o) aggravated battery upon a peace

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1 officer, as provided in Subsection C of Section 30-22-25 NMSA
2 1978;

3 (p) homicide by vehicle or great bodily
4 harm by vehicle, as provided in Section 66-8-101 NMSA 1978,
5 while: 1) under the influence of intoxicating liquor; 2) under
6 the influence of any drug; 3) driving recklessly, as provided
7 in Section 66-8-113 NMSA 1978; or 4) resisting, evading or
8 obstructing an officer, as provided in Section 30-22-1 NMSA
9 1978; and

10 (q) injury to pregnant woman by vehicle,
11 as provided in Section 66-8-101.1 NMSA 1978, while: 1) under
12 the influence of intoxicating liquor; 2) under the influence of
13 any drug; 3) driving recklessly, as provided in Section
14 66-8-113 NMSA 1978; or 4) resisting, evading or obstructing an
15 officer, as provided in Section 30-22-1 NMSA 1978."

16 SECTION 2. Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980,
17 Chapter 28, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "31-21-10. PAROLE AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE.--

19 A. An inmate of an institution who was sentenced to
20 life imprisonment becomes eligible for a parole hearing after
21 the inmate has served thirty years of the sentence. Before
22 ordering the parole of an inmate sentenced to life
23 imprisonment, the board shall:

24 (1) interview the inmate at the institution
25 where the inmate is committed;

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- 1 (2) consider all pertinent information
2 concerning the inmate, including:
3 (a) the circumstances of the offense;
4 (b) mitigating and aggravating
5 circumstances;
6 (c) whether a deadly weapon was used in
7 the commission of the offense;
8 (d) whether the inmate is a habitual
9 offender;
10 (e) the reports filed under Section
11 31-21-9 NMSA 1978; and
12 (f) the reports of such physical and
13 mental examinations as have been made while in an institution;
14 (3) make a finding that a parole is in the
15 best interest of society and the inmate; and
16 (4) make a finding that the inmate is able and
17 willing to fulfill the obligations of a law-abiding citizen.

18 If parole is denied, the inmate sentenced to life
19 imprisonment shall again become entitled to a parole hearing at
20 two-year intervals. The board may, on its own motion, reopen
21 any case in which a hearing has already been granted and parole
22 denied.

23 B. Unless the board finds that it is in the best
24 interest of society and the parolee to reduce the period of
25 parole, a person who was sentenced to life imprisonment shall

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1 be required to undergo a minimum period of parole of five
2 years. During the period of parole, the person shall be under
3 the guidance and supervision of the board.

4 C. Except as provided in Subsection D of this
5 section, an inmate of an institution who was sentenced to life
6 imprisonment without possibility of release or parole is not
7 eligible for parole and shall remain incarcerated for the
8 entirety of the inmate's natural life.

9 D. An inmate of an institution who was sentenced to
10 life imprisonment pursuant to Section 31-18-23 NMSA 1978
11 becomes eligible for a parole hearing if the inmate has served
12 ten or more years of a sentence imposed pursuant to Section
13 31-18-23 NMSA 1978 and is sixty years of age or older. A
14 person granted parole pursuant to this subsection shall be
15 required to undergo parole and shall be under the guidance and
16 supervision of the board for the entirety of the person's
17 natural life.

18 [~~D-~~] E. Except for certain sex offenders as
19 provided in Section 31-21-10.1 NMSA 1978 and persons granted
20 parole pursuant to Subsection D of this section, an inmate who
21 was convicted of a first, second or third degree felony and who
22 has served the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the court in
23 an institution designated by the corrections department shall
24 be required to undergo a two-year period of parole. An inmate
25 who was convicted of a fourth degree felony and who has served

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1 the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the court in an
2 institution designated by the corrections department shall be
3 required to undergo a one-year period of parole. During the
4 period of parole, the person shall be under the guidance and
5 supervision of the board.

6 ~~[E-]~~ F. Every person while on parole shall remain
7 in the legal custody of the institution from which the person
8 was released but shall be subject to the orders of the board.
9 The board shall furnish to each inmate as a prerequisite to
10 release under its supervision a written statement of the
11 conditions of parole that shall be accepted and agreed to by
12 the inmate as evidenced by the inmate's signature affixed to a
13 duplicate copy to be retained in the files of the board. The
14 board shall also require as a prerequisite to release the
15 submission and approval of a parole plan. If an inmate refuses
16 to affix the inmate's signature to the written statement of the
17 conditions of parole or does not have an approved parole plan,
18 the inmate shall not be released and shall remain in the
19 custody of the institution in which the inmate has served the
20 inmate's sentence, excepting parole, until such time as the
21 period of parole the inmate was required to serve, less
22 meritorious deductions, if any, expires, at which time the
23 inmate shall be released from that institution without parole,
24 or until such time that the inmate evidences acceptance and
25 agreement to the conditions of parole as required or receives

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1 approval for the inmate's parole plan or both. Time served
2 from the date that an inmate refuses to accept and agree to the
3 conditions of parole or fails to receive approval for the
4 inmate's parole plan shall reduce the period, if any, to be
5 served under parole at a later date. If the district court has
6 ordered that the inmate make restitution to a victim as
7 provided in Section 31-17-1 NMSA 1978, the board shall include
8 restitution as a condition of parole. The board shall also
9 personally apprise the inmate of the conditions of parole and
10 the inmate's duties relating thereto.

11 ~~[F-]~~ G. When a person on parole has performed the
12 obligations of the person's release for the period of parole
13 provided in this section, the board shall make a final order of
14 discharge and issue the person a certificate of discharge.

15 ~~[G-]~~ H. Pursuant to the provisions of Section
16 31-18-15 NMSA 1978, the board shall require the inmate as a
17 condition of parole:

18 (1) to pay the actual costs of parole services
19 to the adult probation and parole division of the corrections
20 department for deposit to the corrections department intensive
21 supervision fund not exceeding one thousand eight hundred
22 dollars (\$1,800) annually to be paid in monthly installments of
23 not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and not more than
24 one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), as set by the appropriate
25 district supervisor of the adult probation and parole division,

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1 based upon the financial circumstances of the defendant. The
2 defendant's payment of the supervised parole costs shall not be
3 waived unless the board holds an evidentiary hearing and finds
4 that the defendant is unable to pay the costs. If the board
5 waives the defendant's payment of the supervised parole costs
6 and the defendant's financial circumstances subsequently change
7 so that the defendant is able to pay the costs, the appropriate
8 district supervisor of the adult probation and parole division
9 shall advise the board and the board shall hold an evidentiary
10 hearing to determine whether the waiver should be rescinded;
11 and

12 (2) to reimburse a law enforcement agency or
13 local crime stopper program for the amount of any reward paid
14 by the agency or program for information leading to the
15 inmate's arrest, prosecution or conviction.

16 [~~H.~~] I. The provisions of this section shall apply
17 to all inmates except geriatric, permanently incapacitated and
18 terminally ill inmates eligible for the medical and geriatric
19 parole program as provided by the Parole Board Act."

20 **SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY.**--The provisions of this act
21 apply to persons who have been convicted on, before or after
22 July 1, 2021 of one of the violent felonies described in
23 Section 1 of this act for the purpose of determining sentencing
24 enhancements pursuant to that section for subsequent violent
25 felony convictions on or after July 1, 2021.

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SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2021.

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