



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 765

HOUSE BILL NO. 394

By Representative Garrett

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 453

By Senators Bell, Stevens

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 37; Title 38; Title 39; Title 40 and Title 41, relative to the criminal justice system.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-501(h), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(h)

(1) Release eligibility for a defendant committing the offense of first degree murder on or after November 1, 1989, but prior to July 1, 1995, who receives a sentence of imprisonment for life occurs after service of sixty percent (60%) of sixty (60) years less sentence credits earned and retained by the defendant, but in no event shall a defendant sentenced to imprisonment for life be eligible for parole until the defendant has served a minimum of twenty-five (25) full calendar years of the sentence, notwithstanding the governor's power to reduce prison overcrowding pursuant to title 41, chapter 1, part 5, any sentence reduction credits authorized by § 41-21-236, or any other provision of law relating to sentence credits.

(2) There shall be no release eligibility for a person committing first degree murder, on or after July 1, 1995, and receiving a sentence of imprisonment for life. The person shall serve one hundred percent (100%) of sixty (60) years less sentence credits earned and retained. However, no sentence reduction credits authorized by § 41-21-236 or any other law, shall operate to reduce the sentence imposed by the court by more than fifteen percent (15%).

(3) There shall be no release eligibility for a defendant receiving a sentence of imprisonment for life without possibility of parole for first degree murder or aggravated rape of a child.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-501(i), is amended by deleting subdivision (i)(2)(A).

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: June 17, 2020



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 15th day of July 2020



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR