

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.

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

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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 the inmate's  
 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 before the  
 45 department places 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, that  
 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 in the long-term inmate program  
54 on a case-by-case basis.

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

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

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

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

63 1. Anger management.

64 2. Criminal thinking.

65 3. Educational and vocational needs.

66 4. Family relationships.

67 5. Lifestyle and wellness.

68 6. Substance use disorder treatment.

69 7. Victim impact.

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

75 (6) Upon successful completion of the long-term inmate

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76 program, an inmate shall be awarded a certificate of completion.  
77 Successful completion of the program does not guarantee that an  
78 inmate will be paroled and program participation may not extend  
79 the length of the inmate's sentence.

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

82 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.