



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: S. 0170 Introduced on January 12, 2021
Author: Allen
Subject: Early Release for Certain Inmates
Requestor: Senate Corrections and Penology
RFA Analyst(s): Gardner
Impact Date: January 27, 2021

Fiscal Impact Summary

The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the Department of Corrections and the Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 12, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill provides that, under certain circumstances, inmates convicted of a no parole offense may be eligible for early release, discharge, and community supervision depending on the type of conviction and time served. The bill also provides for sentence deduction credits for inmates convicted of a no parole offense for controlled substances or other illegal drugs when they have exhibited good behavior or have participated in academic, technical, or vocational training programs. Eligible inmates may be housed in a state prison or may be serving time in a local facility pursuant to a designated facility agreement.

An inmate convicted of a no parole offense who has had no substantial or major disciplinary infractions, has completed a rehabilitation and re-entry program, and has served at least 77 percent of the original term of imprisonment imposed may be eligible for early release, discharge, and community supervision. Previously, an inmate meeting these conditions would have to serve at least 85 percent of his sentence before being eligible for early release.

Additionally, an inmate convicted of a no parole offense for controlled substances or other illegal drugs who has served at least 65 percent of the original term of imprisonment may now be eligible for early release, discharge, and community supervision, provided he has had no substantial or major disciplinary infractions and has successfully completed both a rehabilitation and a re-entry program. The provisions of this bill allow an inmate to earn sentence deduction credits at a rate of 6 days per month, which will be applied retroactively and begin with the day on which he began serving his sentence. Previously, an inmate meeting these conditions would only be eligible for sentence deduction credits in the amount of 3 days per month. An inmate who meets the same criteria and has also participated in academic, technical, or vocational training programs may earn sentence deduction credits at a rate of 12 days per month, provided he has had no substantial or major disciplinary infractions and has successfully completed both a

rehabilitation and a re-entry program. The credits will be applied retroactively and begin with the day on which he began serving his sentence. An inmate may earn an annual maximum of 144 days of sentence deduction credits. Previously, the annual maximum sentence deduction credit amount was 72 days.

Department of Corrections. The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the department.

Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services. The expenditure impact of this bill is pending, contingent upon a response from the department.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director