

SENATE BILL No. 232

March 8, 2011, Introduced by Senator JONES and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1953 PA 232, entitled
"Corrections code of 1953,"
by amending section 35 (MCL 791.235), as amended by 1998 PA 315.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 35. (1) The release of a prisoner on parole shall be
2 granted solely upon the initiative of the parole board. The parole
3 board may grant a parole without interviewing the prisoner.
4 However, beginning ~~on the date on which the administrative rules~~
5 ~~prescribing parole guidelines pursuant to section 33e(5) take~~
6 ~~effect~~ **JANUARY 26, 1996**, the parole board may grant a parole
7 without interviewing the prisoner only if, after evaluating the
8 prisoner according to the parole guidelines, the parole board
9 determines that the prisoner has a high probability of being
10 paroled and the parole board therefore intends to parole the

1 prisoner. Except as provided in subsection (2), a prisoner shall
2 not be denied parole without an interview before 1 member of the
3 parole board. The interview shall be conducted at least 1 month
4 before the expiration of the prisoner's minimum sentence less
5 applicable good time and disciplinary credits for a prisoner
6 eligible for good time and disciplinary credits, or at least 1
7 month before the expiration of the prisoner's minimum sentence for
8 a prisoner subject to disciplinary time. The parole board shall
9 consider any statement made to the parole board by a crime victim
10 under the **WILLIAM VAN REGENMORTER** crime victim's rights act, 1985
11 PA 87, MCL 780.751 to 780.834, or under any other provision of law.
12 The parole board shall not consider any of the following factors in
13 making a parole determination:

14 (a) A juvenile record that a court has ordered the department
15 to expunge.

16 (b) Information that is determined by the parole board to be
17 inaccurate or irrelevant after a challenge and presentation of
18 relevant evidence by a prisoner who has received a notice of intent
19 to conduct an interview as provided in subsection (4). This
20 subdivision applies only to presentence investigation reports
21 prepared before April 1, 1983.

22 (2) Beginning ~~on the date on which the administrative rules~~
23 ~~prescribing the parole guidelines take effect pursuant to section~~
24 ~~33e(5)~~ **JANUARY 26, 1996**, if, after evaluating a prisoner according
25 to the parole guidelines, the parole board determines that the
26 prisoner has a low probability of being paroled and the parole
27 board therefore does not intend to parole the prisoner, the parole

1 board ~~shall~~ **IS** not ~~be~~ required to interview the prisoner before
2 denying parole to the prisoner.

3 (3) The parole board may consider but shall not base a
4 determination to deny parole solely on either of the following:

5 (a) A prisoner's marital history.

6 (b) Prior arrests not resulting in conviction or adjudication
7 of delinquency.

8 (4) If an interview is to be conducted, the prisoner shall be
9 sent a notice of intent to conduct an interview at least 1 month
10 before the date of the interview. The notice shall state the
11 specific issues and concerns that shall be discussed at the
12 interview and that may be a basis for a denial of parole. A denial
13 of parole shall not be based on reasons other than those stated in
14 the notice of intent to conduct an interview except for good cause
15 stated to the prisoner at or before the interview and in the
16 written explanation required by subsection (12). This subsection
17 does not apply until April 1, 1983.

18 (5) Except for good cause, the parole board member conducting
19 the interview shall not have cast a vote for or against the
20 prisoner's release before conducting the current interview. Before
21 the interview, the parole board member who is to conduct the
22 interview shall review pertinent information relative to the notice
23 of intent to conduct an interview.

24 (6) A prisoner may waive the right to an interview by 1 member
25 of the parole board. The waiver of the right to be interviewed
26 shall be given not more than 30 days after the notice of intent to
27 conduct an interview is issued and shall be made in writing. During

1 the interview held pursuant to a notice of intent to conduct an
2 interview, the prisoner may be represented by an individual of his
3 or her choice. The representative shall not be another prisoner or
4 an attorney. A prisoner is not entitled to appointed counsel at
5 public expense. The prisoner or representative may present relevant
6 evidence in support of release. This subsection does not apply
7 until April 1, 1983.

8 (7) At least 90 days before the expiration of the prisoner's
9 minimum sentence less applicable good time and disciplinary credits
10 for a prisoner eligible for good time or disciplinary credits, or
11 at least 90 days before the expiration of the prisoner's minimum
12 sentence for a prisoner subject to disciplinary time, or the
13 expiration of a 12-month continuance for any prisoner, a parole
14 eligibility report shall be prepared by appropriate institutional
15 staff. The parole eligibility report shall be considered pertinent
16 information for purposes of subsection (5). The report shall
17 include all of the following:

18 (a) A statement of all major misconduct charges of which the
19 prisoner was found guilty and the punishment served for the
20 misconduct.

21 (b) The prisoner's work and educational record while confined.

22 (c) The results of any physical, mental, or psychiatric
23 examinations of the prisoner that may have been performed.

24 (d) Whether the prisoner fully cooperated with the state by
25 providing complete financial information as required under section
26 3a of the state correctional facility reimbursement act, 1935 PA
27 253, MCL 800.403a.

1 (e) For a prisoner subject to disciplinary time, a statement
2 of all disciplinary time submitted for the parole board's
3 consideration ~~pursuant to~~ **UNDER** section 34 of 1893 PA 118, MCL
4 800.34.

5 (8) The preparer of the report shall not include a
6 recommendation as to release on parole.

7 (9) Psychological evaluations performed at the request of the
8 parole board to assist it in reaching a decision on the release of
9 a prisoner may be performed by the same person who provided the
10 prisoner with therapeutic treatment, unless a different person is
11 requested by the prisoner or parole board.

12 (10) The parole board may grant a medical parole for a
13 prisoner determined to be physically or mentally incapacitated. A
14 decision to grant a medical parole shall be initiated upon the
15 recommendation of the bureau of health care services and shall be
16 reached only after a review of the medical, institutional, and
17 criminal records of the prisoner. **THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE**
18 **A PRISONER FROM SEEKING A COMMUTATION BASED ON PHYSICAL OR MENTAL**
19 **INCAPACITY UNDER SECTION 44.**

20 (11) The department shall submit a petition to the appropriate
21 court under section 434 of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL
22 330.1434, for any prisoner being paroled or being released after
23 serving his or her maximum sentence whom the department considers
24 to be a person requiring treatment. The parole board shall require
25 mental health treatment as a special condition of parole for any
26 parolee whom the department has determined to be a person requiring
27 treatment whether or not the petition filed for that prisoner is

1 granted by the court. As used in this subsection, "person requiring
2 treatment" means that term as defined in section 401 of the mental
3 health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1401.

4 (12) When the parole board makes a final determination not to
5 release a prisoner, the prisoner shall be provided with a written
6 explanation of the reason for denial and, if appropriate, specific
7 recommendations for corrective action the prisoner may take to
8 facilitate release.

9 (13) This section does not apply to the placement on parole of
10 a person in conjunction with special alternative incarceration
11 under section 34a(7).