

1 H.29

2 Introduced by Representative Wizowaty of Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Public institutions and corrections; parole eligibility; reduction of
6 term

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create parole
8 eligibility for persons over the age of 55 and to allow inmates working or
9 participating in treatment or training programs to earn day-for-day credit.

10 An act relating to parole eligibility and day-for-day credit

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 501 is amended to read:

13 § 501. ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE CONSIDERATION

14 An inmate who is serving a sentence of imprisonment shall be eligible for
15 parole consideration as follows:

16 (1) If the inmate's sentence has no minimum term or a zero minimum
17 term, the inmate shall be eligible for parole consideration within 12 months
18 after commitment to a correctional facility.

1 to imprisonment and committed to the custody of the Commissioner for a fixed
2 term or terms and who participates in a treatment, educational, or training
3 program or in work approved by the Department, including confinement to a
4 work camp, shall earn a day-for-day reduction in the minimum and maximum
5 terms of confinement for each month during which the inmate demonstrates,
6 beyond the level normally expected, consistent program performance or
7 meritorious work performance.

8 (b) The Department shall develop and publish criteria for evaluating and
9 approving the treatment programs and work described in subsection (a) of this
10 section. Criteria shall give priority to nonprofit organizations and treatment
11 programs with a demonstrated capacity to reduce recidivism or provide another
12 specific benefit to inmates.

13 Sec. 4. REDUCTION OF TERM; AWARDS

14 (a) Sec. 3 of this act shall apply only to work performed or participation in
15 programs on or after July 1, 2013.

16 (b) The Department of Corrections shall notify inmates of this act, its
17 implementation, and its effect on the calculation of minimum and maximum
18 terms of a sentence.

19 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.