

S.338

An act relating to justice reinvestment

The Senate concurs in the House proposal of amendment with the following proposals of amendment thereto:

First: By striking out Sec. 11, 28 V.S.A. § 724, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 11. 28 V.S.A. § 724 is amended to read:

§ 724. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ~~CONDITIONAL REENTRY~~

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION FURLOUGH

(a) Authority of the Department. The Department shall identify in the terms and conditions of ~~conditional reentry~~ community supervision furlough those programs necessary to reduce the offender's risk of reoffense and to promote the offender's accountability for progress in the reintegration process. The Department shall make all determinations of violations of conditions of community supervision furlough pursuant to this subchapter and any resulting change in status or termination of community supervision furlough status.

(b) 90-day interruption or revocation. Any interruption of an offender's community supervision furlough after the Department has found a technical violation of furlough conditions shall trigger a Department Central Office case staffing review and Department notification to the Office of the Defender General if the interruption will be 90 days or longer.

(c) Appeal. An offender whose furlough status is revoked or interrupted for 90 days or longer shall have the right to appeal the Department's determination to the Civil Division of the Superior Court in accordance with Rule 74 of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. The appeal shall be based on a de novo review of the record. The appellant may offer testimony, and, in its discretion for good cause shown, the court may accept additional evidence to supplement the record. The appellant shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the Department abused its discretion in imposing a furlough revocation or interruption for 90 days or longer pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

(d) Technical violations.

(1) As used in this section, "technical violation" means a violation of conditions of furlough that does not constitute a new crime.

(2) It shall be abuse of the Department's discretion to revoke furlough or interrupt furlough status for 90 days or longer for a technical violation, unless:

(A) the offender's risk to reoffend can no longer be adequately controlled in the community, and no other method to control noncompliance is suitable; or

(B) the violation or pattern of violations indicate the offender poses a danger to others or to the community or poses a threat to abscond or escape from furlough.

Second: By striking out Sec. 12, 28 V.S.A. § 724, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 12. [Deleted].

Third: In Sec. 21, Justice Reinvestment II Working Group, by striking out subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) Oversight and implementation of Justice Reinvestment II. Subject to the availability of Bureau of Justice Assistance funding for the involvement of the Council of State Governments, the Justice Reinvestment II Working Group, established by the Governor in Executive Order 03-19, shall oversee the implementation of Justice Reinvestment II as provided in this section. A representative of the Vermont Parole Board shall join the Justice Reinvestment II Working Group to carry out the duties set forth in this section. In the event that such federal funding is not available, the duties set forth in subsection (b) of this section shall be carried out by the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee in consultation with the members of the Justice Reinvestment II Working Group and a representative of the Vermont Parole Board, and any resulting recommendations of the Committee shall be introduced in the form of proposed legislation for the 2021 or 2022 legislative session.

Fourth: In Sec. 21, Justice Reinvestment II Working Group, in subsection (b), by striking out subdivision (7) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(7) evaluate the policy of parole eligibility for older adult inmates who are not serving a sentence of life without parole and who have served a portion of their sentence but not the minimum term;

Fifth: In Sec. 21, Justice Reinvestment II Working Group, subdivision (c)(1), by striking out the words “, a process by which offenders may appeal certain furlough revocations or interrupts by the Department,”

Sixth: In Sec. 26, effective dates, by striking out subsections (a) and (b) in their entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(a) This section and Secs. 14 (earned good time; reduction of term), 19 (racial disparities in the criminal justice system study and recommendations; Vermont Sentencing Commission), 21 (Justice Reinvestment II Working Group; oversight and implementation of Justice Reinvestment II), 22 (Agency of Human services; report to Justice Reinvestment II Working Group), and 25 (repeals) shall take effect on passage.

And by relettering the remaining subsections to be alphabetically correct.