

BILL: Senate Bill 162

TITLE: Criminal Procedure – Motion to Reduce Duration of Sentence – Repeal of Sentencing Date Limitation

DATE: January 23, 2026

POSITION: SUPPORT

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

S.O.C.K. (Saving Our Communities & Kids) respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 162.

My name is **Diontre Stanton**, and I am currently incarcerated. I was a juvenile at the time of my arrest and conviction. I submit this testimony not only as someone directly impacted by this issue, but as a representative of S.O.C.K., an organization dedicated to rebuilding communities by addressing the root causes of violence, poverty, youth harm, and cycles of incarceration — beginning with youth first.

S.O.C.K. exists to assist urban communities in developing viable social and economic solutions for at-risk families, returning citizens, and youth using innovative approaches that go beyond traditional intervention. We believe meaningful rehabilitation, accountability, and opportunity — not permanent punishment — are what restore balance and safety to our communities.

SB 162 is a vital step toward fairness and constitutional compliance. Current law allows individuals ages 18 to 24 to seek sentence review while excluding those under 18 based solely on sentencing dates — despite decades of Supreme Court rulings recognizing that children are fundamentally different from adults in culpability and capacity for change. This creates an unjust and illogical disparity.

SB 162 does not guarantee release — it restores judicial discretion and provides youth sentenced as children a meaningful opportunity to demonstrate growth, rehabilitation, and readiness to contribute positively to society.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 162 and advance this important legislation.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Respectfully,

Diontre Stanton

S.O.C.K. — Saving Our Communities & Kids