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**By: Delegates Muse, C. Mitchell, Patterson, C. Davis, Opara, Valderrama, Marriott, and Parker**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Parole - Eligibility - Education Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a person to obtain a certain degree or successfully  
4 complete a certain program to become eligible for parole; and generally relating to  
5 parole eligibility.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
8 Section 4-516(a)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
13 Section 4-516(b)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

19 4-516.

20 (a) It shall be the duty of the Commission of its own initiative to request the  
21 Division to make such investigation as may enable the Commission to determine the  
22 advisability of granting parole to persons sentenced to a term of 6 months or more under  
23 the laws of this State to the jurisdiction of the Division of Correction, or to any other  
24 place of confinement or detention of violators of the criminal laws of the State whenever  
25 the prisoner shall have served in confinement one-fourth of the term or consecutive  
26 terms.

27 (b) (1) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE CONSIDERATION UNDER SUBSECTION  
28 (A) OF THIS SECTION, A PERSON MUST EARN A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE OR A HIGH

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1 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DEGREE OR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A  
2 VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

3 (2) A person who has been sentenced to more than one term of  
4 confinement, including a term during which the person is eligible for parole and a term  
5 during which the person is not eligible for parole, is not eligible for parole consideration  
6 under subsection (a) of this section until the person has served the greater of:

7 [(1)] (I) One-fourth of the aggregate terms sentenced; or

8 [(2)] (II) A period of time equal to the term during which the person is not  
9 eligible for parole.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 1998.