

# SENATE BILL 150

E2  
SB 225/18 – JPR

9lr0515

---

By: **Senators Hough, Cassilly, Ready, Salling, and West**  
Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2019  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Correctional Services – Eligibility for Parole – Life Imprisonment**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the amount of time that a certain inmate who has been  
4 sentenced to life imprisonment must serve before becoming eligible for parole  
5 consideration; and generally relating to eligibility for parole.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Correctional Services  
8 Section 7–301(d)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Correctional Services**

14 7–301.

15 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection[.]:

16 (I) an inmate who has been sentenced to life imprisonment **AFTER**  
17 **BEING CONVICTED OF A CRIME COMMITTED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2019**, is not eligible  
18 for parole consideration until the inmate has served 15 years or the equivalent of 15 years  
19 considering the allowances for diminution of the inmate’s term of confinement under §  
20 6–218 of the Criminal Procedure Article and Title 3, Subtitle 7 of this article; **AND**

21 (II) **AN INMATE WHO HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO LIFE**  
22 **IMPRISONMENT AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF A CRIME COMMITTED ON OR AFTER**  
23 **OCTOBER 1, 2019, IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE CONSIDERATION UNTIL THE**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **INMATE HAS SERVED 25 YEARS OR THE EQUIVALENT OF 25 YEARS CONSIDERING THE**  
2 **ALLOWANCES FOR DIMINUTION OF THE INMATE'S TERM OF CONFINEMENT UNDER §**  
3 **6-218 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ARTICLE AND TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS**  
4 **ARTICLE.**

5 (2) An inmate who has been sentenced to life imprisonment as a result of  
6 a proceeding under former § 2-303 or § 2-304 of the Criminal Law Article is not eligible for  
7 parole consideration until the inmate has served 25 years or the equivalent of 25 years  
8 considering the allowances for diminution of the inmate's term of confinement under §  
9 6-218 of the Criminal Procedure Article and Title 3, Subtitle 7 of this article.

10 (3) (i) If an inmate has been sentenced to imprisonment for life without  
11 the possibility of parole under § 2-203 or § 2-304 of the Criminal Law Article, the inmate  
12 is not eligible for parole consideration and may not be granted parole at any time during  
13 the inmate's sentence.

14 (ii) This paragraph does not restrict the authority of the Governor to  
15 pardon or remit any part of a sentence under § 7-601 of this title.

16 (4) Subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection, if eligible for parole under  
17 this subsection, an inmate serving a term of life imprisonment may only be paroled with  
18 the approval of the Governor.

19 (5) (i) If the Commission decides to grant parole to an inmate sentenced  
20 to life imprisonment who has served 25 years without application of diminution of  
21 confinement credits, the decision shall be transmitted to the Governor.

22 (ii) The Governor may disapprove the decision by written  
23 transmittal to the Commission.

24 (iii) If the Governor does not disapprove the decision within 180 days  
25 after receipt, the decision becomes effective.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2019.