

**Unfavorable Response to HB1137**  
**Correctional Services - Parole Eligibility - Sexual Offenses Against Minors**

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses. We feel the new language suggested for the Criminal Law Article is completely unnecessary.

There is really no need for any additional punishment (via a delayed release eligibility) for persons convicted of sexual offenses compared to the rest of the prison population. This group of former offenders as a whole actually has a lower re-offense rate (3.5% within three years, compared to 67% for all classes\*) than almost any other group.

Bear in mind that regardless of the type of offense, all are being punished according to a court's order and there is no need for legislators to alter the court's discretion. Even if less than ¼ of one's sentence, waiting the currently-enacted 15, 20 or 25 years minimum for parole eligibility is quite long enough.

Because of the low re-offense rate of this population overall, there is arguably very little gain in public safety with the longer term, and many thousands of tax dollars will be spent per person per additional year for inmates who otherwise might begin to rebuild a productive life on the outside. As a final point, the legislature stripped all good time from persons convicted of sexual offenses over a decade ago, so there is already a disparity in their eligibility for release.

We urge the committee to return an unfavorable vote for HB1137.

Sincerely,



Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director  
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries

\*Bureau of Justice Statistics study page 7.

<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/press/rsorp94pr.cfm> <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/231989.pdf>