

HOUSE BILL 720

By Dixie

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37;
Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 2 and Title 40, relative to
criminal sentencing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-501(h)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting:

(2) Release eligibility for a defendant committing the offense of first degree murder on or after July 1, 1995, who receives a sentence of imprisonment for life occurs after service of sixty percent (60%) of sixty (60) years less sentence credits earned and retained by the defendant. Notwithstanding the governor's power to reduce prison overcrowding pursuant to title 41, chapter 1, part 5, any sentence reduction credits authorized by § 41-21-236, or any other provision of law relating to sentence credits, in no event shall a defendant sentenced to imprisonment for life be eligible for parole until the defendant has served a minimum of:

(A) If the defendant was twenty-five (25) years of age or younger at the time of the offense, twenty-five (25) full calendar years of the sentence; or

(B) If the defendant was twenty-six (26) years of age or older at the time of the offense, thirty (30) full calendar years of the sentence.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to offenses committed on or after July 1, 1995.