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SECHETARY OF STATE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE Regular Session, 2004

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 166

(By Senators Tomblin Mr. President, and Sproces), By Request of THE Executive)

PASSED March 11, 2000

In Effect 90 days from Passage

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Senate Bill No. 166

(By Senators Tomblin, Mr. President, and Sprouse, By Request of the Executive)

[Passed March 11, 2006; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §62-12-12, §62-12-13, §62-12-18, §62-12-19, §62-12-23 and §62-12-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §62-12-12a, all relating to the West Virginia Parole Board; providing for the appointment, powers and duties of the West Virginia Parole Board; providing for the appointment of the Chairperson of the West Virginia Parole Board by the Governor; providing for the consideration of parole and parole revocation by panels of the board; and providing for panels of the board to conduct parole interviews, consider parolees for discharge from parole and hold any other hearings authorized by the board.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That 62-12-12, 62-12-13, 62-12-18, 62-12-19, 62-12-23 and 62-12-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,

be amended and reenacted; and that said code be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §62-12-12a, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 12. PROBATION AND PAROLE.

§62-12-12. Parole board generally.

1 There shall be a state board of parole, known as the "West Virginia Parole Board". The board shall consist of 2 3 nine members, each of whom shall have been a resident of 4 this state for at least five consecutive years prior to his or her appointment. No more than five of the board members 5 may at any one time belong to the same political party. 6 7 The board shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Appointments 8 9 following the effective date of this section shall be made in such a manner that each congressional district is repre-10 sented and so that no more than four and no less than two 11 12 members of the board reside in any one congressional 13 district. No more than two members of the board may 14 reside in any one county. Each member of the board shall have a degree in criminal justice or like experience and 15 academic training and shall be otherwise competent to 16 perform the duties of his or her office. The members shall 17 18 be appointed for overlapping terms of six years. Any member qualified under this section is eligible for reap-19 20 pointment. The members of the board shall devote their 21 full time and attention to their board duties. The Gover-22 nor shall appoint one of the nine appointed members to 23 serve as chairperson at the Governor's will and pleasure.

§62-12-12a. Parole board panels.

(a) The board shall sit in panels of three members for the
 purpose of conducting hearings and making determina tions concerning the release of any inmate on parole,
 conducting hearings and making determinations regarding
 the revocation of parole, considering any eligible parolee

6 for release from further supervision and discharge from

parole, conducting parole interviews and conducting any
other hearing provided for in this article. Membership on
each panel shall be appointed on a rotating basis by the
chairperson of the board. Two members of each panel
shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official
business.

13 (b) When the board sits in panels as herein authorized, 14 each panel shall act in the same manner and under the same authority as the full board. All authority, duties, 15 powers and responsibilities of the board on any matter 16 17 brought before the panel for hearing shall be exercised by the panel as though heard and decided by the full board. 18 19 Decisions of each panel shall constitute a decision of the 20 board. All procedures of the board relating to the conduct 21 of hearings shall apply to hearings before the panels of the 22 board.

§62-12-13. Powers and duties of board; eligibility for parole; procedure for granting parole.

(a) The board of parole, whenever it is of the opinion that
 the best interests of the state and of the inmate will be
 served, and subject to the limitations hereinafter provided,
 shall release any inmate on parole for terms and upon
 conditions as are provided by this article.

6 (b) Any inmate of a state correctional center is eligible7 for parole if he or she:

8 (1) (A) Has served the minimum term of his or her 9 indeterminate sentence or has served one fourth of his or 10 her definite term sentence, as the case may be, except that in no case is any person who committed, or attempted to 11 commit a felony with the use, presentment or brandishing 12 13 of a firearm, eligible for parole prior to serving a minimum 14 of three years of his or her sentence or the maximum sentence imposed by the court, whichever is less: Provided, 15 That any person who committed, or attempted to commit, 16 17 any violation of section twelve, article two, chapter sixty-

one of this code, with the use, presentment or brandishing 18 of a firearm, is not eligible for parole prior to serving a 19 20 minimum of five years of his or her sentence or one third of his or her definite term sentence, whichever is greater. 21 22 Nothing in this section applies to an accessory before the fact or a principal in the second degree who has been 23 convicted as if he or she were a principal in the first degree 24 25 if, in the commission of or in the attempted commission of 26 the felony, only the principal in the first degree used, presented or brandished a firearm. No person is ineligible 27 28 for parole under the provisions of this subdivision because 29 of the commission or attempted commission of a felony 30 with the use, presentment or brandishing of a firearm 31 unless such fact is clearly stated and included in the 32 indictment or presentment by which the person was 33 charged and was either: (i) Found by the court at the time 34 of trial upon a plea of guilty or nolo contendere; or (ii) 35 found by the jury, upon submitting to the jury a special 36 interrogatory for such purpose if the matter was tried 37 before a jury; or (iii) found by the court, if the matter was 38 tried by the court without a jury.

For the purpose of this section, the term "firearm"
means any instrument which will, or is designed to, or may
readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of
an explosive, gunpowder or any other similar means.

43 (B) The amendments to this subsection adopted in the44 year one thousand nine hundred eighty-one:

45 (i) Apply to all applicable offenses occurring on or after46 the first day of August of that year;

47 (ii) Apply with respect to the contents of any indictment
48 or presentment returned on or after the first day of August
49 of that year irrespective of when the offense occurred;

(iii) Apply with respect to the submission of a special
interrogatory to the jury and the finding to be made
thereon in any case submitted to the jury on or after the

53 first day of August of that year or to the requisite findings 54 of the court upon a plea of guilty or in any case tried without a jury: Provided, That the state gives notice in 55 writing of its intent to seek such finding by the jury or 56 court, as the case may be, which notice shall state with 57 58 particularity the grounds upon which the finding will be 59 sought as fully as such grounds are otherwise required to be stated in an indictment, unless the grounds therefor are 60 alleged in the indictment or presentment upon which the 61 62 matter is being tried; and

63 (iv) Does not apply with respect to cases not affected by
64 the amendments and in such cases the prior provisions of
65 this section apply and are construed without reference to
66 the amendments.

Insofar as the amendments relate to mandatory sentences restricting the eligibility for parole, all matters
requiring a mandatory sentence shall be proved beyond a
reasonable doubt in all cases tried by the jury or the court.

(2) Is not in punitive segregation or administrativesegregation as a result of disciplinary action;

(3) Has maintained a record of good conduct in prison
for a period of at least three months immediately preceding the date of his or her release on parole;

(4) Has submitted to the board a written parole release
plan setting forth proposed plans for his or her place of
residence, employmentand, if appropriate, his or her plans
regarding education and post-release counseling and
treatment, the parole release plan having been approved
by the Commissioner of Corrections or his or her authorized representative; and

(5) Has satisfied the board that if released on parole heor she will not constitute a danger to the community.

85 (c) Except in the case of a person serving a life sentence,86 no person who has been previously twice convicted of a

felony may be released on parole until he or she has served 87 the minimum term provided by law for the crime for which 88 89 he or she was convicted. No person sentenced for life may 90 be paroled until he or she has served ten years, and no person sentenced for life who has been previously twice 91 92 convicted of a felony may be paroled until he or she has served fifteen years: Provided, That no person convicted of 93 94 first degree murder for an offense committed on or after the tenth day of June, one thousand nine hundred ninety-95 96 four, is eligible for parole until he or she has served fifteen 97 years.

98 (d) In the case of a person sentenced to any state correc99 tional center, it is the duty of the board, as soon as a
100 person becomes eligible, to consider the advisability of his
101 or her release on parole.

102 (e) If, upon consideration, parole is denied, the board 103 shall promptly notify the inmate of the denial. The board shall, at the time of denial, notify the person of the month 104 and year he or she may apply for reconsideration and 105 106 review. The board shall at least once a year reconsider and review the case of every inmate who was denied parole and 107 108 is still eligible: *Provided*, That the board may reconsider 109 and review parole eligibility any time within three years 110 following the denial of parole of a person serving a life 111 sentence.

(f) Any person serving a sentence on a felony conviction
who becomes eligible for parole consideration prior to
being transferred to a state correctional center may make
written application for parole. The terms and conditions
for parole consideration established by this article apply
to such inmates.

(g) The board shall, with the approval of the Governor,
adopt rules governing the procedure in the granting of
parole. No provision of this article and none of the rules
adopted hereunder are intended or may be construed to
contravene, limit or otherwise interfere with or affect the

123 authority of the Governor to grant pardons and reprieves,

124 commute sentences, remit fines or otherwise exercise his

125 or her constitutional powers of executive clemency.

(h) The Division of Corrections is charged with the duty
of supervising all probationers and parolees whose supervision may have been undertaken by this state by reason
of any interstate compact entered into pursuant to the
uniform act for out-of-state parolee supervision.

131 (i) (1) When considering an inmate of a state correctional 132 center for release on parole, the parole board panel 133 considering the parole is to have before it an authentic 134 copy of or report on the inmate's current criminal record 135 as provided through the West Virginia State Police, the 136 United States Department of Justice or other reliable criminal information sources and written reports of the 137 warden or superintendent of the state correctional center 138 to which such inmate is sentenced: 139

(i) On the inmate's conduct record while in custody,
including a detailed statement showing any and all
infractions of disciplinary rules by the inmate and the
nature and extent of discipline administered therefor;

144 (ii) On improvement or other changes noted in the inmate's mental and moral condition while in custody, 145 including a statement expressive of the inmate's current 146 147 attitude toward society in general, toward the judge who 148 sentenced him or her, toward the prosecuting attorney who 149 prosecuted him or her, toward the policeman or other officer who arrested the inmate and toward the crime for 150 151 which he or she is under sentence and his or her previous 152 criminal record;

(iii) On the inmate's industrial record while in custody
which shall include: The nature of his or her work, occupation or education, the average number of hours per day he
or she has been employed or in class while in custody and
a recommendation as to the nature and kinds of employ-

158 ment which he or she is best fitted to perform and in which

159 the inmate is most likely to succeed when he or she leaves160 prison;

161 (iv) On physical, mental and psychiatric examinations of
162 the inmate conducted, insofar as practicable, within the
163 two months next preceding parole consideration by the
164 board.

165 (2) The board panel considering the parole may waive the requirement of any report when not available or not 166 167 applicable as to any inmate considered for parole but, in 168 every such case, shall enter in the record thereof its reason 169 for the waiver: *Provided*, That in the case of an inmate who is incarcerated because the inmate has been found 170 171 guilty of, or has pleaded guilty to, a felony under the provisions of section twelve, article eight, chapter sixty-172 one of this code or under the provisions of article eight-b 173 174 or eight-c of said chapter, the board panel may not waive the report required by this subsection and the report is to 175 176 include a study and diagnosis including an on-going 177 treatment plan requiring active participation in sexual 178 abuse counseling at an approved mental health facility or 179 through some other approved program: Provided, however, 180 That nothing disclosed by the person during the study or 181 diagnosis may be made available to any law-enforcement agency, or other party without that person's consent, or 182 admissible in any court of this state, unless the informa-183 184 tion disclosed indicates the intention or plans of the 185 parolee to do harm to any person, animal, institution or to 186 property. Progress reports of outpatient treatment are to 187 be made at least every six months to the parole officer 188 supervising the person. In addition, in such cases, the 189 parole board shall inform the prosecuting attorney of the 190 county in which the person was convicted of the parole hearing and shall request that the prosecuting attorney 191 192 inform the parole board of the circumstances surrounding a conviction or plea of guilty, plea bargaining and other 193 194 background information that might be useful in its 195 deliberations.

196 (j) Before releasing any inmate on parole, the board of 197 parole shall arrange for the inmate to appear in person 198 before a parole board panel and the panel may examine 199 and interrogate him or her on any matters pertaining to his 200 or her parole, including reports before the board made 201 pursuant to the provisions hereof: Provided, That an 202 inmate may appear by video teleconference if the members 203 of the panel conducting the examination are able to 204 contemporaneously see the inmate and hear all of his or 205 her remarks and if the inmate is able to contemporane-206 ously see each of the members of the panel conducting the 207 examination and hear all of the members' remarks. The panel shall reach its own written conclusions as to the 208 209 desirability of releasing the inmate on parole and the majority of the panel considering the release shall concur 210 211 The warden or superintendent shall in the decision. 212 furnish all necessary assistance and cooperate to the 213 fullest extent with the parole board. All information, 214 records and reports received by the board are to be kept on 215 permanent file.

(k) The board and its designated agents are at all times
to have access to inmates imprisoned in any state correctional center or in any city, county or regional jail in this
state and shall have the power to obtain any information
or aid necessary to the performance of its duties from
other departments and agencies of the state or from any
political subdivision thereof.

(1) The board shall, if so requested by the Governor,
investigate and consider all applications for pardon,
reprieve or commutation and shall make recommendation
thereon to the Governor.

(m) Prior to making a recommendation for pardon,
reprieve or commutation and prior to releasing any inmate
on parole, the board shall notify the sentencing judge and
prosecuting attorney at least ten days before the recommendation or parole.

(n) Any person released on parole shall participate as a
condition of parole in the litter control program of the
county to the extent directed by the board, unless the
board specifically finds that this alternative service would
be inappropriate.

10

§62-12-18. Period of parole; discharge.

1 The period of parole shall be the maximum of any 2 sentence, less deductions for good conduct and work as 3 provided by law, for which the paroled inmate, at the time of release, was subject to imprisonment under his or her 4 5 definite or indeterminate sentence, as the case may be: 6 *Provided*, That any time after a parolee has been on parole 7 for a period of one year from the date of his or her release, 8 a panel of the board may, when in its judgment the ends of 9 parole have been attained and the best interests of the 10 state and the parolee will be served thereby, release the parolee from further supervision and discharge him or her 11 12 from parole: Provided, however, That no inmate sentenced 13 to serve a life term of imprisonment and released on parole 14 shall be discharged from supervision and parole in a 15 period less than five years from the date of his or her 16 release on parole.

17 No parolee who has violated the terms of his or her 18 release on parole by confession to, or being convicted of, in 19 any state of the United States, the District of Columbia or 20 the territorial possessions of the United States, the crime of treason, murder, aggravated robbery, first degree sexual 21 assault, second degree sexual assault, a sexual offense 22 23 against a minor, incest or offenses with the same essential elements if known by other terms in other jurisdictions 24 shall be discharged from parole. A parolee serving a 25 26 sentence in any correctional facility of another state or the United States may, unless incarcerated for one of the 27 above enumerated crimes, be discharged from parole while 28 29 so serving his or her sentence in said correctional facility or be continued on parole or returned to West Virginia as 30 a parole violator, in the discretion of the parole board. 31

§62-12-19. Violation of parole.

(a) If at any time during the period of parole there is 1 2 reasonable cause to believe that the parolee has violated 3 any of the conditions of his or her release on parole, the 4 parole officer may arrest him or her with or without an 5 order or warrant, or the Commissioner of Corrections may 6 issue a written order or warrant for his or her arrest, 7 which written order or warrant is sufficient for his or her 8 arrest by any officer charged with the duty of executing an 9 ordinary criminal process. The commissioner's written order or warrant delivered to the sheriff against the 10 paroled prisoner shall be a command to keep custody of 11 12 the parolee for the jurisdiction of the Division of Correc-13 tions and during the period of custody, the parolee may be 14 admitted to bail by the court before which the parolee was 15 sentenced. If the parolee is not released on a bond, the 16 costs of confining the paroled prisoner shall be paid out of 17 the funds appropriated for the Division of Corrections.

18 (b) When a parolee is under arrest for violation of the 19 conditions of his or her parole, he or she shall be given a 20 prompt and summary hearing before a panel of the board, 21 at which the parolee and his or her counsel are given an 22 opportunity to attend. If at the hearing it appears to the 23 satisfaction of the panel that the parolee has violated any 24 condition of his or her release on parole, or any rules or 25 conditions of his or her supervision, the panel may revoke 26 his or her parole and may require him or her to serve in prison the remainder or any portion of his or her maxi-27 28 mum sentence for which, at the time of his or her release, 29 he or she was subject to imprisonment: Provided, That if 30 the violation of the conditions of parole or rules for his or 31 her supervision is not a felony as set out in section eigh-32 teen of this article, the panel may, if in its judgment the 33 best interests of justice do not require revocation, reinstate 34 him or her on parole. The Division of Corrections shall 35 effect release from custody upon approval of a home plan. Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the con-36 37 trary, when reasonable cause has been found to believe

38 that a parolee has violated the conditions of his or her 39 parole but the violation does not constitute felonious 40 conduct, the commissioner may, in his or her discretion 41 and with the written consent of the parolee, allow the 42 parolee to remain on parole with additional conditions or restrictions. The additional conditions or restrictions may 43 44 include, but are not limited to, participation in any program described in subsection (d), section five, article 45 · 46 eleven-c of this chapter. Compliance by the parolee with the conditions of parole precludes revocation of parole for 47 the conduct which constituted the violation. Failure of the 48 49 parolee to comply with the conditions or restrictions and 50 all other conditions of release is an additional violation of parole and the parolee may be proceeded against under the 51 52 provisions of this section for the original violation as well 53 as any subsequent violations.

(c) When a parolee has violated the conditions of his or
her release on parole by confession to, or being convicted
of, any of the crimes set forth in section eighteen of this
article, he or she shall be returned to the custody of the
Division of Corrections to serve the remainder of his or her
maximum sentence, during which remaining part of his or
her sentence he or she is ineligible for further parole.

61 (d) Whenever the parole of a paroled prisoner has been 62 revoked, the commissioner shall, upon receipt of the 63 panel's written order of revocation, convey and transport 64 the paroled prisoner to a state correctional institution. A 65 paroled prisoner whose parole has been revoked shall 66 remain in custody of the sheriff until delivery to a corrections officer sent and duly authorized by the commissioner 67 for the removal of the paroled prisoner to a state penal 68 institution; the cost of confining the paroled prisoner shall 69 70 be paid out of the funds appropriated for the Division of 71 Corrections.

(e) When a paroled prisoner is convicted of, or confesses
to, any one of the crimes enumerated in section eighteen of
this article, it is the duty of the board to cause him or her

to be returned to this state for a summary hearing as 75 provided by this article. Whenever a parolee has ab-76 77 sconded supervision, the commissioner shall issue a 78 warrant for his or her apprehension and return to this state for the hearing provided for in this article: *Provided*, 79 That the panel considering revocation may, if it determines 80 the best interests of justice do not require revocation, 81 cause the paroled absconder to be reinstated to parole. 82

(f) A warrant filed by the commissioner shall stay the
running of his or her sentence until the parolee is returned
to the custody of the Division of Corrections and physically in West Virginia.

87 (g) Whenever a parolee who has absconded supervision or has been transferred out of this state for supervision 88 89 pursuant to section one, article six, chapter twenty-eight 90 of this code is returned to West Virginia due to a violation of parole and costs are incurred by the Division of Correc-91 92 tions, the commissioner may assess reasonable costs from the parolee's inmate funds or the parolee as reimburse-93 ment to the Division of Corrections for the costs of return-94 95 ing him or her to West Virginia.

96 (h) Conviction of a felony for conduct occurring during
97 the period of parole is proof of violation of the conditions
98 of parole and the hearing procedures required by the
99 provisions of this section are inapplicable.

100 (i) The Commissioner of the Division of Corrections may 101 issue subpoenas for persons and records necessary to prove 102 a violation of the terms and conditions of a parolee's 103 parole either at a preliminary hearing or at a final hearing before a panel of the Parole Board. The subpoenas shall be 104 105 served in the same manner provided in the Rules of 106 Criminal Procedure. The subpoenas may be enforced by 107 the commissioner through application or petition of the commissioner to the circuit court for contempt or other 108 109 relief.

§62-12-23. Notification of parole hearing; victim's right to be heard; notification of release on parole.

14

1 (a) Following the sentencing of a person who has been 2 convicted of murder, aggravated robbery, sexual assault in 3 the first or second degree, kidnapping, child abuse resulting in injury, child neglect resulting in injury, arson or a 4 5 sexual offense against a minor, the prosecuting attorney 6 who prosecuted the offender shall prepare a "Parole Hearing Notification Form". This form shall contain the 7 8 following information:

9 (1) The name of the county in which the offender was10 prosecuted and sentenced;

(2) The name of the court in which the offender wasprosecuted and sentenced;

13 (3) The name of the prosecuting attorney or assistantprosecuting attorney who prosecuted the offender;

15 (4) The name of the judge who presided over the criminal16 case and who sentenced the offender;

17 (5) The names of the law-enforcement agencies and
18 officers who were primarily involved with the investiga19 tion of the crime for which the offender was sentenced;
20 and

(6) The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the
victims of the crime for which the offender was sentenced
or the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the
immediate family members of each victim of the crime,
including, but not limited to, each victim's spouse, father,
mother, brothers and sisters.

(b) The prosecuting attorney shall retain the original of
the "Parole Hearing Notification Form" and shall provide
copies of it to the circuit court which sentenced the
offender, the parole board, the Commissioner of Corrections and to all persons whose names and addresses are
listed on the "Parole Hearing Notification Form".

(c) At least forty-five days prior to the date of a parole 33 hearing, the parole board shall notify all persons who are 34 listed on the "Parole Hearing Notification Form" of the 35 date, time and place at which a parole hearing will be 36 37 held. Such notice shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice shall state that the victims 38 of the crime have the right to submit a written statement 39 40 to the parole board and to attend the parole hearing to be 41 heard regarding the propriety of granting parole to the 42 prisoner. The notice shall also state that only the victims may submit written statements and speak at the parole 43 44 hearing unless a victim is deceased, is a minor or is otherwise incapacitated. 45

(d) The panel considering the parole shall inquire during
the parole hearing as to whether the victims of the crime
or their representatives, as provided in this section, are
present. If so, the panel shall permit those persons to
speak at the hearing regarding the propriety of granting
parole for the prisoner.

52 (e) If the panel grants parole, it shall immediately set a 53 date on which the prisoner will be released. Such date 54 shall be no earlier than thirty days after the date on which parole is granted. On the date on which parole is granted, 55 the parole board shall notify all persons listed on the 56 "Parole Hearing Notification Form" that parole has been 57 granted and that the prisoner will be released on a partic-58 59 ular date. A written statement of reasons for releasing the 60 prisoner, prepared pursuant to subdivision (4), subsection (b), section thirteen of this article, shall be provided upon 61 62 request to all persons listed on the "Parole Hearing Notification Form". 63

§62-12-24. Request to continue for good cause and timely notice required.

- 1 (a) Any inmate scheduled for a parole interview shall, if
- 2 he or she desires to continue the interview, file with the
- 3 institutional parole officer a written waiver of his or her

4 right to an interview on the date set on a form provided by

5 the commissioner of corrections at least thirty days prior

6 to the interview date. A copy of the waiver shall be

7 supplied to the board of parole.

8 (b) The board shall propose for promulgation a legisla-9 tive rule pursuant to article three, chapter twenty-nine-a 10 of this code setting forth criteria constituting emergency 11 circumstances where a waiver of interview filed less than 12 thirty days prior to the scheduled interview shall consti-13 tute good cause for a continuance.

14 (c) Any inmate failing to appear for his or her scheduled parole interview who has not waived his or her interview 15 16 pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to a parole inter-17 18 view for a period of twelve months from the date of the 19 interview at which he or she failed to appear. The panel 20 conducting the interview shall have discretion to reset the 21 interview with notice to the inmate and any other person 22 or persons entitled by law to notice, prior to the expiration of the twelve-month waiver period. 23

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Serate Committee Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

my h. B Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

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PRESENTED TO THE

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