

Senate Bill 288

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Removes requirement that parole hearing for defendant convicted of murder or aggravated murder follow procedures for contested case hearing.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to parole hearings in murder cases; amending ORS 163.105 and 163.115.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 163.105 is amended to read:

5 163.105. Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS chapter 144 and ORS 421.450 to 421.490:

6 (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 137.700, when a defendant is convicted of aggravated
7 murder as defined by ORS 163.095, the defendant shall be sentenced, pursuant to ORS 163.150, to
8 death, life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole or life imprisonment.

9 (b) A person sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of release or parole under
10 this section shall not have that sentence suspended, deferred or commuted by any judicial officer,
11 and the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision may not parole the prisoner nor reduce
12 the period of confinement in any manner whatsoever. The Department of Corrections or any execu-
13 tive official may not permit the prisoner to participate in any sort of release or furlough program.

14 (c) If sentenced to life imprisonment, the court shall order that the defendant shall be confined
15 for a minimum of 30 years without possibility of parole, release to post-prison supervision, release
16 on work release or any form of temporary leave or employment at a forest or work camp.

17 (2) At any time after completion of a minimum period of confinement pursuant to subsection
18 (1)(c) of this section, the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, upon the petition of a
19 prisoner so confined, shall hold a hearing to determine if the prisoner is likely to be rehabilitated
20 within a reasonable period of time. The sole issue *[shall be]* **is** whether or not the prisoner is likely
21 to be rehabilitated within a reasonable period of time. *[The proceeding shall be conducted in the*
22 *manner prescribed for a contested case hearing under ORS chapter 183 except that:]*

23 *[(a)]* **At the hearing**, the prisoner *[shall have]* **has:**

24 (a) The burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence the likelihood of rehabilitation
25 within a reasonable period of time; and

26 (b) *[The prisoner shall have]* The right, if the prisoner is without sufficient funds to employ an
27 attorney, to be represented by legal counsel, appointed by the board, at board expense.

28 (3) If, upon hearing all of the evidence, the board, upon a unanimous vote of all of its members,
29 finds that the prisoner is capable of rehabilitation and that the terms of the prisoner's confinement
30 should be changed to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole, release to post-prison super-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 vision or work release, it shall enter an order to that effect and the order shall convert the terms
 2 of the prisoner's confinement to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole, release to post-
 3 prison supervision or work release and may set a release date. Otherwise the board shall deny the
 4 relief sought in the petition.

5 (4) Not less than two years after the denial of the relief sought in a petition under this section,
 6 the prisoner may petition again for a change in the terms of confinement. Further petitions for a
 7 change may be filed at intervals of not less than two years thereafter.

8 **SECTION 2.** ORS 163.115 is amended to read:

9 163.115. (1) Except as provided in ORS 163.118 and 163.125, criminal homicide constitutes mur-
 10 der:

11 (a) When it is committed intentionally, except that it is an affirmative defense that, at the time
 12 of the homicide, the defendant was under the influence of an extreme emotional disturbance;

13 (b) When it is committed by a person, acting either alone or with one or more persons, who
 14 commits or attempts to commit any of the following crimes and in the course of and in furtherance
 15 of the crime the person is committing or attempting to commit, or during the immediate flight
 16 therefrom, the person, or another participant if there be any, causes the death of a person other
 17 than one of the participants:

18 (A) Arson in the first degree as defined in ORS 164.325;

19 (B) Criminal mischief in the first degree by means of an explosive as defined in ORS 164.365;

20 (C) Burglary in the first degree as defined in ORS 164.225;

21 (D) Escape in the first degree as defined in ORS 162.165;

22 (E) Kidnapping in the second degree as defined in ORS 163.225;

23 (F) Kidnapping in the first degree as defined in ORS 163.235;

24 (G) Robbery in the first degree as defined in ORS 164.415;

25 (H) Any felony sexual offense in the first degree defined in this chapter;

26 (I) Compelling prostitution as defined in ORS 167.017; or

27 (J) Assault in the first degree, as defined in ORS 163.185, and the victim is under 14 years of
 28 age, or assault in the second degree, as defined in ORS 163.175 (1)(a) or (b), and the victim is under
 29 14 years of age; or

30 (c) By abuse when a person, recklessly under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to
 31 the value of human life, causes the death of a child under 14 years of age or a dependent person,
 32 as defined in ORS 163.205, and:

33 (A) The person has previously engaged in a pattern or practice of assault or torture of the vic-
 34 tim or another child under 14 years of age or a dependent person; or

35 (B) The person causes the death by neglect or maltreatment.

36 (2) An accusatory instrument alleging murder by abuse under subsection (1)(c) of this section
 37 need not allege specific incidents of assault or torture.

38 (3) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of violating subsection (1)(b) of this section that the
 39 defendant:

40 (a) Was not the only participant in the underlying crime;

41 (b) Did not commit the homicidal act or in any way solicit, request, command, importune, cause
 42 or aid in the commission thereof;

43 (c) Was not armed with a dangerous or deadly weapon;

44 (d) Had no reasonable ground to believe that any other participant was armed with a dangerous
 45 or deadly weapon; and

1 (e) Had no reasonable ground to believe that any other participant intended to engage in con-
2 duct likely to result in death.

3 (4) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of violating subsection (1)(c)(B) of this section that
4 the child or dependent person was under care or treatment solely by spiritual means pursuant to the
5 religious beliefs or practices of the child or person or the parent or guardian of the child or person.

6 (5)(a) A person convicted of murder, who was at least 15 years of age at the time of committing
7 the murder, shall be punished by imprisonment for life.

8 (b) When a defendant is convicted of murder under this section, the court shall order that the
9 defendant shall be confined for a minimum of 25 years without possibility of parole, release to
10 post-prison supervision, release on work release or any form of temporary leave or employment at
11 a forest or work camp.

12 (c) At any time after completion of a minimum period of confinement pursuant to paragraph (b)
13 of this subsection, the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, upon the petition of a
14 prisoner so confined, shall hold a hearing to determine if the prisoner is likely to be rehabilitated
15 within a reasonable period of time. The sole issue *[shall be]* **is** whether or not the prisoner is likely
16 to be rehabilitated within a reasonable period of time. *[The proceeding shall be conducted in the*
17 *manner prescribed for a contested case hearing under ORS chapter 183 except that:]*

18 *[(A)]* **At the hearing**, the prisoner *[shall have]* **has:**

19 **(A)** The burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence the likelihood of rehabilitation
20 within a reasonable period of time; and

21 **(B)** *[The prisoner shall have]* The right, if the prisoner is without sufficient funds to employ an
22 attorney, to be represented by legal counsel, appointed by the board, at board expense.

23 (d) If, upon hearing all of the evidence, the board, upon a unanimous vote of all of its members,
24 finds that the prisoner is capable of rehabilitation and that the terms of the prisoner's confinement
25 should be changed to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole, release to post-prison super-
26 vision or work release, it shall enter an order to that effect and the order shall convert the terms
27 of the prisoner's confinement to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole, release to post-
28 prison supervision or work release and may set a release date. Otherwise, the board shall deny the
29 relief sought in the petition.

30 (e) Not less than two years after the denial of the relief sought in a petition under paragraph
31 (c) of this subsection, the prisoner may petition again for a change in the terms of confinement.
32 Further petitions for a change may be filed at intervals of not less than two years thereafter.

33 (6) As used in this section:

34 (a) "Assault" means to intentionally, knowingly or recklessly cause physical injury to another
35 person. "Assault" does not include the causing of physical injury in a motor vehicle accident that
36 occurs by reason of the reckless conduct of a defendant.

37 (b) "Neglect or maltreatment" means a violation of ORS 163.535, 163.545 or 163.547 or a failure
38 to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care that is likely to endanger the health or
39 welfare of a child under 14 years of age or a dependent person. This paragraph is not intended to
40 replace or affect the duty or standard of care required under ORS chapter 677.

41 (c) "Pattern or practice" means one or more previous episodes.

42 (d) "Torture" means to intentionally inflict intense physical pain upon an unwilling victim as a
43 separate objective apart from any other purpose.