

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: H3/5/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1450

By: Representative Copeland

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME CREDITS TO AN INMATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE AWARD OF MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME CREDITS TO AN INMATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-29-201(e)(2), concerning meritorious good time for an inmate in the Department of Correction, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Meritorious good time shall under no circumstances reduce an inmate's time served in prison by more than one-half (1/2) of the percentage required by law for transfer eligibility, unless the reduction by more than one-half (1/2) of the percentage required by law for transfer eligibility is the result of the accumulation of meritorious good time credits under § 12-29-202(d)(2).

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-29-202(d), concerning the award of meritorious good time credits, is amended to read as follows:

(d)(1) Upon recommendation of the committee, the Director of the Department of Correction may award an amount of meritorious good time sufficient to reduce incarceration time by up to ninety (90) days, not to exceed a total of three hundred sixty (360) days, for each successful



completion of a:

- (A) State-sponsored general education development certificate program;
- (B) Vocational program for which certification is awarded;
- (C) Drug or alcohol treatment program offered at a Department of Correction facility; or
- (D) Pre-release and other rehabilitative programs or assignments as approved by the Board of Corrections.

(2)(A) The director also shall award additional meritorious good time in the following amounts to an inmate who maintains a Class I classification for at least six (6) consecutive months:

(i) One hundred eighty (180) days for the successful completion of a state-sponsored general education development certificate program;

(ii) One hundred eighty (180) days for successful completion of a vocational program for which certification is awarded;

(iii) Ninety (90) days for not abusing infirmary privileges by pretending to be ill to avoid a job assignment, as determined by the director, for a period of one hundred fifty (150) days;

(iv) Ninety (90) days for remaining free from being written up for a disciplinary violation for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days; and

(v) Up to ninety (90) days for successful completion of a job training program or assignment as approved by the Board of Corrections.

(B) All additional meritorious good time awarded under this section shall be credited immediately to the inmate's parole eligibility date calculation.

~~(2)(A)~~~~(3)(A)~~ The additional days of meritorious good time described in subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall be awarded pursuant to rules promulgated by the board.

(B) The board may make additions, amendments, changes, or alterations to the rules in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-29-203(a), concerning the forfeiture of

meritorious good time, is amended to read as follows:

(a) All meritorious good time shall be forfeited by an inmate in the event of escape, and all or part of accrued good time may be taken away by the Director of the Department of Correction for infraction of rules, including without limitation:

- (1) A sexual-related disciplinary violation;
- (2) Possession of an illegal substance or contraband; or
- (3) Smuggling or trading contraband.

/s/Copeland