Twenty is plenty.

After 20 years behind bars, incarcerated people in Illinois deserve chances to be reviewed.

The Earned Reentry Bill provides a mechanism for regular review of people who have served at least 20 years in prison, thus restoring an opportunity for people with long sentences to return to productive lives when they are ready.

People who meet certain criteria could be granted parole by the Prisoner Review Board, allowing them to complete their sentences under community supervision, returning home to their families and jobs while remaining under the custody of the Department of Corrections. They would be held to stipulated rules and complete regular check-ins with a parole officer until the end of their community supervision.

With Earned Reentry, someone who has served 20 years would be eligible to appear before the parole board. This length of time is based on expert recommendations.

YEARS SERVED WITHOUT PAROLE ELIGIBILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT ILLINOIS LAW</th>
<th>LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDIANA AND KENTUCKY</td>
<td>People with life sentences in Indiana and Kentucky become parole-eligible after a maximum of 20 years²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE OF MISSOURI</td>
<td>People with life sentences in Missouri become parole-eligible after 15 years¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE</td>
<td>Recommends sentence review and possible modification at 15 years¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE</td>
<td>Recommends universal parole eligibility after 15 years³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crime rates plummet as people age.

Data shows crime overwhelmingly occurs amongst young men.⁶ Rates drop off drastically when people reach their mid-20s and then continue to decline with age.⁷ Over 13,500 incarcerated people in Illinois are 40 or older (46% of the prison population), many of whom are ready to lead productive lives.⁸ Judges have no way to predict rehabilitation at sentencing. We need an incentive for rehabilitation and a method to review people.

Article 1, Section 11 of the Illinois Constitution states that all penalties should aim to restore people to useful citizenship.

1. IN Code § 11-13-3-2 (2022)
2. 501 KY Admin Regs Service 1:030

ParoleIllinois.org
Support Earned Reentry in the Illinois Legislature: SB2129 + HB3373
Questions? Email: Info@ParoleIllinois.org