

STATE OF NEW YORK

2730

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 17, 2017

Introduced by Sens. GRIFFO, DeFRANCISCO, FUNKE, GOLDEN, LARKIN, RANZEN-HOFER, RITCHIE, SAVINO, SERINO, SEWARD, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to denial of parole to certain inmates who have been convicted of a violent felony offense when the state board of parole finds, by convincing evidence, that the release of such inmate would pose an imminent threat to society; and to amend the correction law, in relation to making the earning of good behavior allowances for violent felony offenders contingent upon their not being an imminent threat to society upon release

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 70.40 of the
2 penal law, as amended by section 127-d-1 of subpart B of part C of chap-
3 ter 62 of the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:
4 (b) A person who is serving one or more than one indeterminate or
5 determinate sentence of imprisonment shall, if he or she so requests, be
6 conditionally released from the institution in which he or she is
7 confined when the total good behavior time allowed to him or her, pursu-
8 ant to the provisions of the correction law, is equal to the unserved
9 portion of his or her term, maximum term or aggregate maximum term;
10 provided, however, that (i) in no event shall a person serving one or
11 more indeterminate sentence of imprisonment and one or more determinate
12 sentence of imprisonment which run concurrently be conditionally
13 released until serving at least six-sevenths of the determinate term of
14 imprisonment which has the longest unexpired time to run; and (ii) in no
15 event shall a person be conditionally released prior to the date on
16 which such person is first eligible for discretionary parole release;
17 and (iii) in the event that the state board of parole finds, in writing
18 and by clear and convincing evidence, that the release of a person serv-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD02065-01-7

1 ing any sentence of imprisonment for the conviction of a violent felony
2 offense, as defined in subdivision one of section 70.02 of this article,
3 would pose an imminent threat to society, such person shall not be
4 conditionally released or paroled and shall remain imprisoned for his or
5 her term, maximum term or aggregate maximum term, whichever shall be
6 greatest. The conditions of release, including those governing post-re-
7 lease supervision, shall be such as may be imposed by the state board of
8 parole in accordance with the provisions of the executive law.

9 Every person so released shall be under the supervision of the state
10 department of corrections and community supervision for a period equal
11 to the unserved portion of the term, maximum term, aggregate maximum
12 term, or period of post-release supervision.

13 § 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 70.40 of the penal law,
14 as amended by section 127-e of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of the
15 laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

16 (b) A person who is serving one or more than one indeterminate
17 sentence of imprisonment shall, if he or she so requests, be condi-
18 tionally released from the institution in which he or she is confined
19 when the total good behavior time allowed to him or her, pursuant to the
20 provisions of the correction law, is equal to the unserved portion of
21 his or her maximum or aggregate maximum term; provided, however, that in
22 the event that the state board of parole finds, in writing and by clear
23 and convincing evidence, that the release of a person serving any
24 sentence of imprisonment for the conviction of a violent felony offense,
25 as defined in subdivision one of section 70.02 of this article, would
26 pose an imminent threat to society, such person shall not be condi-
27 tionally released or paroled and shall remain imprisoned for his or her
28 maximum term or aggregate maximum term, whichever shall be greater. The
29 conditions of release, including those governing post-release super-
30 vision, shall be such as may be imposed by the state board of parole in
31 accordance with the provisions of the executive law.

32 Every person so released shall be under the supervision of the depart-
33 ment of corrections and community supervision for a period equal to the
34 unserved portion of the maximum, aggregate maximum term, or period of
35 post-release supervision.

36 § 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 803 of the correction
37 law, as amended by section 37 of subpart B of part C of chapter 62 of
38 the laws of 2011, is amended to read as follows:

39 (a) Every person confined in an institution of the department or a
40 facility in the department of mental hygiene serving an indeterminate or
41 determinate sentence of imprisonment, except a person serving a sentence
42 with a maximum term of life imprisonment, may receive time allowance
43 against the term or maximum term of his or her sentence imposed by the
44 court. Such allowances may be granted for good behavior and efficient
45 and willing performance of duties assigned or progress and achievement
46 in an assigned treatment program, and may be withheld, forfeited or
47 canceled in whole or in part for bad behavior, violation of institu-
48 tional rules or failure to perform properly in the duties or program
49 assigned. Provided, however, that any time allowance earned pursuant to
50 this section by a person serving a sentence for conviction of a violent
51 felony offense defined in subdivision one of section 70.02 of the penal
52 law shall be withheld by the state board of parole upon a finding, in
53 writing and by clear and convincing evidence, that such person would
54 pose an imminent threat to society if released from incarceration.

1 § 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 803 of the correction
2 law, as amended by chapter 126 of the laws of 1987 and as designated by
3 chapter 738 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

4 (a) Every person confined in an institution of the department or a
5 facility in the department of mental hygiene serving an indeterminate
6 sentence of imprisonment, except a person serving a sentence with a
7 maximum term of life imprisonment, may receive time allowance against
8 the maximum term or period of his sentence not to exceed in the aggre-
9 gate one-third of the term or period imposed by the court. Such allow-
10 ances may be granted for good behavior and efficient and willing
11 performance of duties assigned or progress and achievement in an
12 assigned treatment program, and may be withheld, forfeited or canceled
13 in whole or in part for bad behavior, violation of institutional rules
14 or failure to perform properly in the duties or program assigned.

15 Provided, however, that any time allowance earned pursuant to this
16 section by a person serving a sentence for conviction of a violent felo-
17 nny offense defined in subdivision one of section 70.02 of the penal law
18 shall be withheld by the state board of parole upon a finding, in writ-
19 ing and by clear and convincing evidence, that such person would pose an
20 imminent threat to society if released from incarceration.

21 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the amend-
22 ments to paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 70.40 of the penal
23 law made by section one of this act shall be subject to the expiration
24 and reversion of such paragraph pursuant to subdivision d of section 74
25 of chapter 3 of the laws of 1995, as amended, when upon such date the
26 provisions of section two of this act shall take effect; and provided,
27 further that the amendments to section 803 of the correction law, made
28 by section three of this act, shall be subject to the expiration and
29 reversion of such section pursuant to subdivision d of section 74 of
30 chapter 3 of the laws of 1995, as amended, when upon such date the
31 provisions of section four of this act shall take effect.