

STATE OF NEW YORK

292

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. RHOADS -- 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 a required sentence of life imprisonment without parole for the murder of a child

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 3 of
2 section 70.00 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 107 of the laws of
3 2006, is amended to read as follows:
4 (i) For a class A-I felony, such minimum period shall not be less than
5 fifteen years nor more than twenty-five years; provided, however, that
6 (A) where a sentence, other than a sentence of death or life imprison-
7 ment without parole, is imposed upon a defendant convicted of murder in
8 the first degree as defined in section 125.27 of this chapter such mini-
9 mum period shall be not less than twenty years nor more than twenty-five
10 years, and, (B) where a sentence is imposed upon a defendant convicted
11 of murder in the second degree as defined in [~~subdivision five of~~]
12 section 125.25 of this chapter where the victim is less than eighteen
13 years old, or convicted of aggravated murder as defined in section
14 125.26 of this chapter, or convicted of murder in the first degree as
15 defined in section 125.27 of this chapter where the victim is less than
16 eighteen years old, the sentence shall be life imprisonment without
17 parole, and, (C) where a sentence is imposed upon a defendant convicted
18 of attempted murder in the first degree as defined in article one
19 hundred ten of this chapter and subparagraph (i), (ii) or (iii) of para-
20 graph (a) of subdivision one and paragraph (b) of subdivision one of
21 section 125.27 of this chapter or attempted aggravated murder as defined
22 in article one hundred ten of this chapter and section 125.26 of this
23 chapter such minimum period shall be not less than twenty years nor more
24 than forty years.

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

LBD00203-01-5

1 § 2. Subdivision 5 of section 70.00 of the penal law, as amended by
2 section 40-a of part WWW of chapter 59 of the laws of 2017, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 5. Life imprisonment without parole. Notwithstanding any other
5 provision of law, a defendant sentenced to life imprisonment without
6 parole shall not be or become eligible for parole or conditional
7 release. For purposes of commitment and custody, other than parole and
8 conditional release, such sentence shall be deemed to be an indetermi-

9 nate sentence. ~~[A]~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision a
10 defendant may be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole upon
11 conviction for the crime of murder in the first degree as defined in
12 section 125.27 of this chapter and in accordance with the procedures
13 provided by law for imposing a sentence for such crime. A defendant who
14 was eighteen years of age or older at the time of the commission of the
15 crime must be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole upon
16 conviction for the crime of terrorism as defined in section 490.25 of
17 this chapter, where the specified offense the defendant committed is a
18 class A-I felony; the crime of criminal possession of a chemical weapon
19 or biological weapon in the first degree as defined in section 490.45 of
20 this chapter; or the crime of criminal use of a chemical weapon or
21 biological weapon in the first degree as defined in section 490.55 of
22 this chapter; provided, however, that nothing in this subdivision shall
23 preclude or prevent a sentence of death when the defendant is also
24 convicted of the crime of murder in the first degree as defined in
25 section 125.27 of this chapter. A defendant who was seventeen years of
26 age or younger at the time of the commission of the crime may be
27 sentenced, in accordance with law, to the applicable indeterminate
28 sentence with a maximum term of life imprisonment. A defendant must be
29 sentenced to life imprisonment without parole upon conviction for the
30 crime of murder in the second degree as defined in ~~[subdivision five of]~~
31 section 125.25 of this chapter, aggravated murder as defined in section
32 125.26 of this chapter, or murder in the first degree as defined in
33 section 125.27 of this chapter, where the victim was less than eighteen
34 years old, or for the crime of aggravated murder as defined in subdivi-
35 sion one of section 125.26 of this chapter. ~~[A defendant may be~~
36 ~~sentenced to life imprisonment without parole upon conviction for the~~
37 ~~crime of aggravated murder as defined in subdivision two of section~~
38 ~~125.26 of this chapter.]~~

39 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.