



# Twenty is plenty.

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

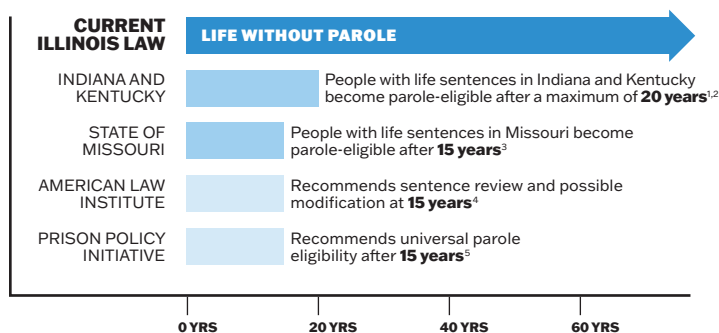
The Earned Reentry Bill provides a mechanism for regular review of people who have served at least 20 years in prison, thus restoring an opportunity for people with long sentences to return to productive lives when they are ready.

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



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

## Crime rates plummet as people age.

Data shows crime overwhelmingly occurs amongst young men.<sup>6</sup> Rates drop off drastically when people reach their mid-20s and then continue to decline with age.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> Judges have no way to predict rehabilitation at sentencing. We need an incentive for rehabilitation and a method to review people.

1. IN Code § 11-13-3-2 (2022)  
 2. 501 KY Admin Regs Service 1:030  
 3. State of Missouri. Department of Corrections, Missouri Parole Board. (2022). *Procedures Governing the Granting of Paroles and Conditional Releases.*  
 4. Kevin Reitz, "American Law Institute, Model Penal Code: Sentencing, Plan for Revision," *Buffalo Criminal Law Review* 6 (1) 2002.  
 5. Renaud, J. (2018, November). Eight keys to mercy: how to shorten excessive prison sentences. *Prison Policy Initiative.*  
 6. Nellis, A. (2017). Still Life: America's Increasing Use of Life and Long-Term Sentences. *The Sentencing Project.*  
 7. Nellis, A. (2017). Still Life.  
 8. State of Illinois. Department of Corrections. (2022). *Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report.*

THE PEOPLE'S LOBBY



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

