

HB523 INTRODUCED



1 HB523
2 GFIBC66-1
3 By Representatives Hassell, Moore (M), Datcher, Bracy, Travis,
4 Tillman, Gray, England, Ensler, McCampbell, Morris, Chestnut,
5 Drummond, Warren, Lands, Lawrence, Daniels
6 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
7 First Read: 03-Apr-25



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would further provide for parole hearing procedures by requiring an equal amount of time given to proponents and opponents of the parole of an inmate, to authorize non-lawyers to speak at the hearing, and to clarify the circumstances when board members may offer explanations of their decision.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to paroles; to provide certain procedures for a parole hearing; and to require the Board of Pardons and Paroles to adopt conforming rules.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Board of Pardons and Paroles, by rule, shall adopt a minimum amount of time to hear advocates for or against the parole of an inmate. The minimum amount may be increased by the board on a case-by-case basis depending on the complexity of the case and the number of individuals seeking to speak. The board shall allocate the amount of time to hear advocates for or against parole as follows:

(1) Fifty percent of the amount of time shall be



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reserved for the inmate and his or her advocates for parole.

(2) Fifty percent of the amount of time shall be reserved for any other advocate against parole.

(b) Subject to the time limitations under subsection (a), any of the following individuals may speak for or against an inmate's parole:

(1) Any individual authorized by the inmate to speak on his or her behalf without regard to any state license requirement.

(2) Any victim of the inmate or the victim's family.

(3) Any individual authorized by the victim or victim's family to speak on the victim's behalf without regard to any state license requirement.

(4) Any law enforcement officer.

(5) Any representative of the Office of the Attorney General or office of a district attorney.

(c) The members of the board may provide the basis of their decision to award or deny parole only if an oral or written request is made to the board by an individual attending the hearing.

(d) The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall adopt rules to conform to this section.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.