

**SB157 INTRODUCED**



1 SB157  
2 9YCLPMP-1  
3 By Senator Barfoot  
4 RFD: Judiciary  
5 First Read: 11-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, an inmate may not attend his or her parole hearing.

This bill would allow an inmate to attend his or her parole hearing by telephone, video conference, or any other similar communications system and would provide parameters for the remote parole hearings.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to paroles; to provide that an inmate may attend his or her parole hearing remotely and would provide parameters for remote parole hearings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) (1) An inmate shall be allowed to participate in his or her parole hearing via telephone, video conference, or any other similar communications system that allows the inmate to interact with the members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The victim, victim's family, and others representing the victim shall have the option to hear or see the inmate's statement.

(2) Any other individual participating in a parole



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29 hearing, including, but not limited to, the victim, the  
30 victim's family, a crime victim advocate, a law enforcement  
31 officer, or a prosecutor shall also be allowed to participate  
32 in a parole hearing via telephone, video conference, or any  
33 other similar communications system.

34 (b) Unless the victim or the victim's family chooses  
35 for the inmate to hear his or her statement, the inmate shall  
36 not be allowed to see, hear, or otherwise interact with  
37 victims, victims' families, or crime victim advocates who  
38 address the board or attend the hearing.

39 (c) If the communications system fails or is in any way  
40 interrupted during a hearing, the hearing shall be suspended  
41 until communication is reestablished.

42 (d) An inmate may waive his or her right provided in  
43 subsection (a).

44 (e) Only those permitted to speak under the rules  
45 established by the Board of Pardons and Paroles shall be  
46 provided access to the hearing via telephone, video  
47 conference, or any other similar communications system. The  
48 communications system used shall be in the discretion of the  
49 Board of Pardons and Paroles; provided, however, the preferred  
50 method of communication is video conferencing.

51 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
52 1, 2025.