

SB240 INTRODUCED



1 SB240
2 I3SXG66-1
3 By Senator Barfoot
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 03-Feb-26



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 provide parameters for remote parole hearings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) (1) The Board of Pardons and Paroles shall allow an inmate 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 board shall give the victim, victim's family, and others representing the victim the option to see or hear the inmate's statement.



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(2) The board shall allow any other individual participating in a parole hearing, including, but not limited to, the victim, the victim's family, a crime victim advocate, a law enforcement officer, or a prosecutor, to participate in a parole hearing via telephone, video conference, or any other similar communications system.

(3) An inmate may waive his or her rights provided under this subsection.

(b) Unless the victim or the victim's family chooses otherwise, the board shall not allow an inmate to see, hear, or otherwise interact with victims, victims' families, or crime victim advocates who address the board or attend the hearing.

(c) If the communications system fails or is in any way interrupted during a hearing, the board shall suspend the hearing until communication is reestablished.

(d) The board shall only provide access to the hearing to individuals permitted to speak pursuant to rules established by the board. Individuals authorized to speak may speak by telephone, video conference, or any other similar communications system. The board shall use video conferencing when that communications system is available; otherwise, the board may choose any other authorized communication method.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2026.