



Bill Summary: Life without Parole (LWOP) Reform in Pennsylvania SB 135 (Sen. Street)

The bill: SB 135 would provide second chances to some of the more than 5,000 people who are serving life without parole sentences in Pennsylvania. People convicted of first-degree murder of a law enforcement officer would not be parole eligible. The bill would also create the “Life with Parole Reinvestment Fund,” which would reinvest savings from reducing the prison population into victim services, reentry programs, and parole supervision. **FAMM supports this bill.**

Bill status: *This bill is not yet law.* To become law, it must be approved by committees, passed by the Pennsylvania House and the Senate, and signed by the governor. We do not know if or when this bill will become law – every year, many bills are introduced, but very few become law.

What the bill would do:

SB 135 would extend parole eligibility to some people convicted of first- and second-degree murder. People would be eligible for parole after serving the following years of their sentence, depending on their age and who the victim is:

- First degree murder when the convicted person is:
 - o Over age 15: life, with a minimum of 35 years
 - o Over age 15, and the victim is a law enforcement officer: life without parole, or 35 years to life
 - o Under age 15: life, with a minimum of 25 years
 - o Under age 15, and the victim is a law enforcement officer: life without parole, or 25 years to life
- Second degree murder when the convicted person is:
 - o Age 25 or older: 30 years to life
 - o Under age 15: 20 years to life

SB 135 would change the penalty for people who have been previously convicted of two crimes of violence to a minimum of 20 years and up to life *with* the possibility of parole.

SB 135 would reinvest savings from granting parole eligibility to people serving life without parole in:

- Funds for victims
- Offender reentry programs
- Parole supervision.

