

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1999 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY JOHNSON, WATERS, CALTAGIRONE, EACHUS, MUNDY,  
BELFANTI, CREIGHTON, JOSEPHS, PARKER, PAYTON, PRESTON,  
SIPTROTH, THOMAS AND WHEATLEY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for special  
3 sentencing rules for certain youthful offenders; and imposing  
4 duties on the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and  
5 Delinquency.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
9 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

10 § 9720.3. Special sentencing rules for certain youthful  
11 offenders.

12 (a) Abolition of life sentence without parole.--

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary:

14 (1) A sentence of life imprisonment imposed after the  
15 effective date of this section upon an offender who was under  
16 18 years of age at the time of commission of the offense  
17 shall include the possibility of parole as provided in  
18 subsection (b).

19 (2) Any person not covered by paragraph (1) who is

1 serving a sentence of life imprisonment for an offense  
2 committed while the person was under 18 years of age may  
3 apply for resentencing and upon application shall receive a  
4 life sentence that includes the possibility of parole as  
5 provided in subsection (b).

6 (b) Parole.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law to  
7 the contrary, a sentence of life imprisonment for an offense  
8 committed by an offender who was under 18 years of age at the  
9 time of commission of the offense shall include, at a minimum, a  
10 provision permitting the offender to apply for parole at 31  
11 years of age and every three years thereafter.

12 (c) Annual statistics.--The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime  
13 and Delinquency shall annually collect, assemble and publish  
14 pertinent statistics relating to each youthful defendant tried  
15 as an adult in criminal court during the preceding calendar  
16 year, including, but not limited to:

17 (1) Demographic information such as age, race and sex of  
18 the defendant.

19 (2) The manner by which the offender came to be tried as  
20 an adult.

21 (3) The defendant's prior criminal record, if any.

22 (4) The outcome of the trial, including the precise  
23 sentence received, if any.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.