

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: H3/5/15

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1450

5 By: Representative Copeland
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME
9 CREDITS TO AN INMATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION;
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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12

Subtitle

13 CONCERNING THE AWARD OF MERITORIOUS GOOD
14 TIME CREDITS TO AN INMATE IN THE
15 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-29-201(e)(2), concerning meritorious*
22 *good time for an inmate in the Department of Correction, is amended to read*
23 *as follows:*

24 *(2) Meritorious good time shall under no circumstances reduce an*
25 *inmate's time served in prison by more than one-half (1/2) of the percentage*
26 *required by law for transfer eligibility, unless the reduction by more than*
27 *one-half (1/2) of the percentage required by law for transfer eligibility is*
28 *the result of the accumulation of meritorious good time credits under § 12-*
29 *29-202(d)(2).*
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31 *SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-29-202(d), concerning the award of*
32 *meritorious good time credits, is amended to read as follows:*

33 (d)(1) Upon recommendation of the committee, the Director of the
34 Department of Correction may award an amount of meritorious good time
35 sufficient to reduce incarceration time by up to ninety (90) days, not to
36 exceed a total of three hundred sixty (360) days, for each successful



1 completion of a:

2 (A) State-sponsored general education development
3 certificate program;

4 (B) Vocational program for which certification is awarded;

5 (C) Drug or alcohol treatment program offered at a
6 Department of Correction facility; or

7 (D) Pre-release and other rehabilitative programs or
8 assignments as approved by the Board of Corrections.

9 (2)(A) The director also shall award additional meritorious good
10 time in the following amounts to an inmate who maintains a Class I
11 classification for at least six (6) consecutive months:

12 (i) One hundred eighty (180) days for the successful
13 completion of a state-sponsored general education development certificate
14 program;

15 (ii) One hundred eighty (180) days for successful
16 completion of a vocational program for which certification is awarded;

17 (iii) Ninety (90) days for not abusing infirmary
18 privileges by pretending to be ill to avoid a job assignment, as determined
19 by the director, for a period of one hundred fifty (150) days;

20 (iv) Ninety (90) days for remaining free from being
21 written up for a disciplinary violation for a period of one hundred eighty
22 (180) days; and

23 (v) Up to ninety (90) days for successful completion
24 of a job training program or assignment as approved by the Board of
25 Corrections.

26 (B) All additional meritorious good time awarded under
27 this section shall be credited immediately to the inmate's parole eligibility
28 date calculation.

29 ~~(2)(A)~~(3)(A) The additional days of meritorious good time
30 described in subdivision (d)(1) of this section shall be awarded pursuant to
31 rules promulgated by the board.

32 (B) The board may make additions, amendments, changes, or
33 alterations to the rules in accordance with the Arkansas Administrative
34 Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.

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36 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 12-29-203(a), concerning the forfeiture of

1 meritorious good time, is amended to read as follows:

2 (a) All meritorious good time shall be forfeited by an inmate in the
3 event of escape, and all or part of accrued good time may be taken away by
4 the Director of the Department of Correction for infraction of rules,
5 including without limitation:

- 6 (1) A sexual-related disciplinary violation;
- 7 (2) Possession of an illegal substance or contraband; or
- 8 (3) Smuggling or trading contraband.

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/s/Copeland