

1 State of Arkansas  
2 80th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1995  
4 By: Senator Hoofman

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 819

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED §12-29-201 TO  
9 MAKE CERTAIN INMATES INELIGIBLE FOR MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME;  
10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

## Subtitle

13 "TO MAKE CERTAIN INMATES INELIGIBLE FOR  
14 MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME"

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

18 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated §12-29-201 is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 "12-29-201. Meritorious good time. [Effective January 1, 1994.]

21 (a) An inmate who pleads guilty, nolo contendere or is found guilty of  
22 an offense ranked level 5 or below on the Offense Seriousness Ranking Table  
23 established by the Arkansas Sentencing Commission may be entitled to  
24 meritorious good time reducing his transfer eligibility date up to thirty  
25 (30) days for each month incarcerated after imposition of sentence in one (1)  
26 of the units, facilities, and centers maintained by the Department of  
27 Correction or the Department of Community Punishment.

28 (b) Meritorious good time shall be allocated under rules and  
29 regulations promulgated by the Board of Correction and Community Punishment  
30 and administered by the respective department staff subject to the provisions  
31 of this subchapter for good discipline, behavior, work practices, job  
32 responsibilities, and involvement in rehabilitative activities while in the  
33 custody of the Department of Correction or the Department of Community  
34 Punishment.

35 (c) Meritorious good time will not be applied to reduce the length of

1 a sentence.

2 (d) Meritorious good time shall apply to an eligible inmate's transfer  
3 eligibility date from the Department of Correction or a community punishment  
4 facility.

5 (1) Meritorious good time shall under no circumstances reduce an  
6 eligible inmate's time served in prison by more than one-half (1/2) of the  
7 percentage required by law for transfer eligibility.

8 (2) Meritorious good time shall under no circumstances reduce an  
9 eligible inmate's confinement in a community punishment facility by more than  
10 one-half (1/2).

11 (e)(1) The Department of Correction or the Department of Community  
12 Punishment shall determine a date at which the eligible inmate who has  
13 acquired the maximum amount of meritorious good time necessary is to be  
14 administratively transferred to a less restrictive placement or supervision  
15 level within the Department of Community Punishment.

16 (2) Such date will be determined in accordance with the policies  
17 developed by the Arkansas Sentencing Commission within the parameters allowed  
18 by law.

19 (f) Inmates under sentence of death, life imprisonment without parole,  
20 life imprisonment, or inmates who pleaded guilty, nolo contendere or were  
21 found guilty of an offense ranked level 6 or above on the Offense  
22 Seriousness Ranking Table established by the Arkansas Sentencing Commission,  
23 shall not be eligible for meritorious good time under this subchapter, nor  
24 shall they be eligible for parole or transfer until eighty-five percent (85%)  
25 of their sentence has been served, but may be pardoned or have their  
26 sentences commuted by the Governor, as provided by law."

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28 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent  
29 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas  
30 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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32 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
33 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
34 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
35 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this

1 act are declared to be severable.

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3           SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
4 hereby repealed.

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