

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2624

4  
5 By: Representative Bright  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF MERITORIOUS GOOD  
10 TIME TO VIOLENT OFFENDERS; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

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14 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARD OF  
15 MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME TO VIOLENT  
16 OFFENDERS.  
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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 is amended to read as follows:  
22 12-29-201. Meritorious good time.

23 (a) ~~An~~ Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, an inmate  
24 may be entitled to meritorious good time reducing his or her transfer  
25 eligibility date up to thirty (30) days for each month incarcerated after  
26 imposition of sentence in one (1) of the units, facilities, and centers  
27 maintained by the Department of Correction or the Department of Community  
28 Correction.

29 (b) An inmate transferred or paroled to the supervision of the  
30 Department of Community Correction under § 16-93-206 may receive meritorious  
31 good time reducing his or her time of transfer or parole supervision up to  
32 thirty (30) days for each month he or she is under the supervision of the  
33 Department of Community Correction.

34 (c) Meritorious good time shall be allocated under rules and  
35 regulations promulgated by the Board of Corrections and administered by the  
36 respective Department of Correction or Department of Community Correction



1 staff subject to the provisions of this subchapter for good discipline,  
 2 behavior, work practices, job responsibilities, and involvement in  
 3 rehabilitative activities while in the custody or under the supervision of  
 4 the Department of Correction or the Department of Community Correction.

5 (d) Meritorious good time will not be applied to reduce the length of  
 6 a sentence.

7 (e)(1) Meritorious good time shall apply to an inmate's transfer  
 8 eligibility date from the Department of Correction or a community correction  
 9 facility.

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

13 (3) Meritorious good time shall under no circumstances reduce an  
 14 inmate's confinement in a community correction facility by more than one-half  
 15 (1/2).

16 (f)(1) The Department of Correction or the Department of Community  
 17 Correction shall determine a date on which the inmate who has acquired the  
 18 maximum amount of meritorious good time necessary is to be administratively  
 19 transferred to a less restrictive placement or supervision level within the  
 20 Department of Community Correction.

21 (2) This date will be determined in accordance with the policies  
 22 developed by the Arkansas Sentencing Commission within the parameters allowed  
 23 by law.

24 (g)(1) Inmates under sentence of death or life imprisonment without  
 25 parole shall not be eligible for meritorious good time under this subchapter  
 26 but may be pardoned or have their sentences commuted by the Governor, as  
 27 provided by law.

28 (2) Inmates sentenced to life imprisonment shall not receive  
 29 meritorious good time calculated on their sentences unless the sentence is  
 30 commuted to a term of years by executive clemency.

31 (3) Upon commutation, the inmate shall be eligible to receive  
 32 meritorious good time at the rate established by this subchapter.

33 (h)(1) For violent offenders, meritorious good time shall not apply to  
 34 the inmate's transfer eligibility date from the Department of Correction or a  
 35 community correction facility unless:

36 (A) The inmate has served twenty-five percent (25%) of his

1 or her original sentence; and

2 (B) The inmate's prison record does not contain any  
 3 disciplinary violations documented by the Director of the Department of  
 4 Correction or the classification committee described in § 12-29-202.

5 (2)(A)(i) If the inmate's prison record contains documented  
 6 disciplinary violations after the inmate has served twenty-five percent (25%)  
 7 of his or her original sentence, the inmate shall not be eligible for  
 8 meritorious good time for a period of six (6) months.

9 (ii) After the expiration of the six-month period of  
 10 ineligibility, the classification committee shall review the inmate's record  
 11 and if no additional disciplinary violations have been documented, the inmate  
 12 shall be eligible for meritorious good time.

13 (B)(i) All accrued meritorious good time shall be  
 14 forfeited by an inmate for a documented disciplinary violation.

15 (ii) However, the Director of the Department of  
 16 Correction or the Director of the Department of Community Correction may  
 17 restore lost good time according to rules promulgated by the Board of  
 18 Corrections.

19 (3)(A) The provisions of this subsection (h) are only  
 20 applicable:

21 (i) To violent offenders; and

22 (ii) For offenses committed on or after the  
 23 effective date of this subsection (h).

24 (B) The Board of Corrections shall define the term  
 25 "violent offenders" in the rules promulgated under subsection (c) of this  
 26 section.

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