

State of Arkansas
85th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

SENATE BILL 388

By: Senator Luker
By: Representatives Bond, D. Johnson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL DAYS OF
MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME AWARDS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL DAYS OF
MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME AWARDS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-29-202 is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

12-29-202. Classification committee - Classifications.

(a)(1) There is established a classification committee to be defined by administrative regulations approved by the Board of Corrections.

(2) Members of the committee will be selected by wardens or supervisors of the various units, facilities, or centers of the Department of Correction and Department of Community Correction per board regulation governing their selection.

(3) This committee shall meet as often as necessary to classify the inmates into no more than four (4) classes according to good behavior, good discipline, medical condition, job responsibilities, and involvement in rehabilitative activities.

(b)(1) Inmates who maintain class through good behavior, good discipline, work practices, job responsibilities, and involvement in rehabilitative activities may earn up to one (1) day for every day served as



1 a reduction toward their transfer eligibility date for each day incarcerated
2 after the imposition of sentence.

3 (2) Inmates who are reduced to the lowest class, established
4 through board policy, as a result of disciplinary action shall not be
5 entitled to earn meritorious good time.

6 (3) Inmates serving a punitive disciplinary sentence in punitive
7 segregation shall not be entitled to earn meritorious good time.

8 (c) Inmates may be reclassified as often as the committee deems
9 necessary or in accordance with current board regulations to carry out the
10 purpose of this subchapter and to maintain good discipline, order, and
11 efficiency at the units, facilities, or centers.

12 (d)(1) Upon recommendation of the classification committee, the
13 Director of the Department of Correction may recommend to the Board of
14 Corrections up to one hundred eighty (180) additional days of meritorious
15 good time awards for:

16 (A) Completion of a state-sponsored general education
17 development certificate program;

18 (B) Completion of a vocational program for which
19 certification is awarded;

20 (C) Completion of a drug or alcohol treatment program
21 offered at a Department of Correction facility; or

22 (D) An action which if not taken would have left others
23 exposed to an imminent risk of harm or death, or an exceptional action taken
24 to preserve the safety and good order of the institution.

25 (2)(A) The additional days of meritorious good time described in
26 subdivision (d)(1) of this section will be awarded pursuant to rules
27 promulgated by the board.

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

31
32 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-29-204 is amended to read as follows:

33 12-29-204. Statutory good time - Maximum reduction.

34 Those inmates sentenced to the Department of Correction prior to April
35 2, 1971, shall be entitled to "statutory good time" as provided in Acts 1968
36 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 50, § 14 [repealed], provided no inmate shall ever

1 receive a reduction under this subchapter, or this subchapter and another
2 subchapter jointly, of more than thirty (30) days for each month served
3 except for the additional days of meritorious good time awards authorized in
4 § 12-29-202(d).