

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
4

As Engrossed: S2/22/05

A Bill

SENATE BILL 388

5 By: Senator Luker
6 By: Representatives Bond, D. Johnson
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For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL DAYS OF
11 MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME AWARDS; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
13

Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL DAYS OF
15 MERITORIOUS GOOD TIME AWARDS.
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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 § 12-29-202 is amended to add an additional
22 subsection to read as follows:

23 12-29-202. Classification committee - Classifications.

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

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

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

34 (b)(1) Inmates who maintain class through good behavior, good
35 discipline, work practices, job responsibilities, and involvement in
36 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 award up to ninety (90)
14 additional days each, not to exceed a total of two hundred seventy (270)
15 days, for successful:

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; or

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

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

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

28 (e) In no event shall the awarding of meritorious good time under
29 subdivision (d)(1) of this section be applicable to persons sentenced under §
30 16-93-611(a)(1)(A) through (E).

31 (f) A jury may be instructed pursuant to § 16-97-103 regarding the
32 awarding of meritorious good time under subdivision (d)(1) of this section.

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

35 12-29-204. Statutory good time - Maximum reduction.

36 Those inmates sentenced to the Department of Correction prior to April

1 2, 1971, shall be entitled to "statutory good time" as provided in Acts 1968
2 (1st Ex. Sess.), No. 50, § 14 [repealed], provided no inmate shall ever
3 receive a reduction under this subchapter, or this subchapter and another
4 subchapter jointly, of more than thirty (30) days for each month served
5 except for the additional days of meritorious good time awards authorized in
6 § 12-29-202(d).

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/s/ Luker