

# SENATE BILL 654

E4, E2

9lr1872  
CF HB 638

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By: **Senator Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 31, 2009

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Violent Crimes – Conditional Release Under Mandatory Supervision**  
3 **– Limitation**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing that an inmate convicted of a certain violent crime  
5 committed on or after a certain date is not eligible for a certain conditional  
6 release until after the inmate becomes eligible for parole; requiring a court,  
7 when a sentence of confinement is imposed for a certain violent crime, to state  
8 in open court the minimum time a certain defendant must serve before  
9 becoming eligible for a certain conditional release under mandatory supervision;  
10 and generally relating to imposing sentences.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Correctional Services  
13 Section 7–301(c) and (d)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Correctional Services  
18 Section 7–501  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
22 Article – Criminal Procedure  
23 Section 6–217

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2008 Replacement Volume)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
4 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

5 **Article – Correctional Services**

6 7–301.

7 (c) (1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph,  
8 an inmate who has been sentenced to the Division of Correction after being convicted  
9 of a violent crime committed on or after October 1, 1994, is not eligible for parole until  
10 the inmate has served the greater of:

11 1. one-half of the inmate’s aggregate sentence for  
12 violent crimes; or

13 2. one-fourth of the inmate’s total aggregate sentence.

14 (ii) An inmate who has been sentenced to the Division of  
15 Correction after being convicted of a violent crime committed on or after October 1,  
16 1994, and who has been sentenced to more than one term of imprisonment, including a  
17 term during which the inmate is eligible for parole and a term during which the  
18 inmate is not eligible for parole, is not eligible for parole until the inmate has served  
19 the greater of:

20 1. one-half of the inmate’s aggregate sentence for  
21 violent crimes;

22 2. one-fourth of the inmate’s total aggregate sentence;  
23 or

24 3. a period equal to the term during which the inmate is  
25 not eligible for parole.

26 (2) An inmate who is serving a term of imprisonment for a violent  
27 crime committed on or after October 1, 1994, shall receive an administrative review of  
28 the inmate’s progress in the correctional facility after the inmate has served the  
29 greater of:

30 (i) one-fourth of the inmate’s aggregate sentence; or

31 (ii) if the inmate is serving a term of imprisonment that  
32 includes a mandatory term during which the inmate is not eligible for parole, a period  
33 equal to the term during which the inmate is not eligible for parole.

1 (d) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, an  
2 inmate who has been sentenced to life imprisonment is not eligible for parole  
3 consideration until the inmate has served 15 years or the equivalent of 15 years  
4 considering the allowances for diminution of the inmate's term of confinement under §  
5 6–218 of the Criminal Procedure Article and Title 3, Subtitle 7 of this article.

6 (2) An inmate who has been sentenced to life imprisonment as a result  
7 of a proceeding under § 2–303 or § 2–304 of the Criminal Law Article is not eligible for  
8 parole consideration until the inmate has served 25 years or the equivalent of 25 years  
9 considering the allowances for diminution of the inmate's term of confinement under §  
10 6–218 of the Criminal Procedure Article and Title 3, Subtitle 7 of this article.

11 (3) (i) If an inmate has been sentenced to imprisonment for life  
12 without the possibility of parole under § 2–203 or § 2–304 of the Criminal Law Article,  
13 the inmate is not eligible for parole consideration and may not be granted parole at  
14 any time during the inmate's sentence.

15 (ii) This paragraph does not restrict the authority of the  
16 Governor to pardon or remit any part of a sentence under § 7–601 of this title.

17 (4) If eligible for parole under this subsection, an inmate serving a  
18 term of life imprisonment may only be paroled with the approval of the Governor.

19 7–501.

20 (A) [The] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,**  
21 **THE** Division of Correction shall grant a conditional release from confinement to an  
22 inmate who:

23 (1) is serving a term of confinement of more than 12 months;

24 (2) was sentenced on or after July 2, 1970, to the jurisdiction of the  
25 Division of Correction; and

26 (3) has served the term or terms, less diminution credit awarded  
27 under Title 3, Subtitle 7 and Title 11, Subtitle 5 of this article.

28 (B) **AN INMATE CONVICTED OF A VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTED ON OR**  
29 **AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2009, IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A CONDITIONAL RELEASE**  
30 **UNDER THIS SECTION UNTIL AFTER THE INMATE BECOMES ELIGIBLE FOR**  
31 **PAROLE UNDER § 7–301(C) OR (D) OF THIS TITLE.**

32 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

33 6–217.

1           (a)     When a sentence of confinement that is to be served is imposed for a  
2 violent crime as defined in § 7-101 of the Correctional Services Article for which a  
3 defendant will be eligible for parole under § 7-301(c) or (d) of the Correctional Services  
4 Article, the court shall state in open court the minimum time the defendant must  
5 serve before becoming eligible for parole **AND BEFORE BECOMING ELIGIBLE FOR**  
6 **CONDITIONAL RELEASE UNDER MANDATORY SUPERVISION UNDER § 7-501 OF**  
7 **THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.**

8           (b)     The statement required by subsection (a) of this section is for information  
9 only and is not a part of the sentence.

10          (c)     The failure of a court to comply with subsection (a) of this section does  
11 not affect the legality or efficacy of the sentence.

12           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2009.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.