

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 697

Short Title: The Prison Resources Repurposing Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander and Gailliard (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: State Government, if favorable, Judiciary 1, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 28, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO EXPAND THE MUTUAL AGREEMENT PAROLE PROGRAM TO ALLOW  
3 FOR THE PAROLE OF INMATES SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT  
4 PAROLE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
7 Article to read:

8 "Article 85C.

9 "Parole Eligibility for Defendants Sentenced to Life Imprisonment Without Parole Under the  
10 Mutual Agreement Parole Program.

11 **"§ 15A-1380.6. Applicability.**

12 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, inmates serving life imprisonment without  
13 parole may be eligible for release pursuant to this Article under the Department of Public Safety's  
14 Mutual Agreement Parole Program (MAPP) after serving a minimum of 20 years' imprisonment  
15 and complying with mandatory educational, vocational, and work requirements.

16 **"§ 15A-1380.7. Conditions of eligibility.**

17 (a) Assessment. – Inmates serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole shall  
18 be assessed during the first five years of that sentence before becoming eligible for the Mutual  
19 Agreement Parole Program (MAPP). During this assessment, the Division of Adult Correction  
20 and Juvenile Justice shall evaluate the inmate's behavioral, educational, and occupational needs.

21 After an inmate has completed the first five years of the inmate's sentence, the inmate may  
22 be offered a 15-year MAPP contract. The contract shall take into account the assessment  
23 performed during the first five years of the inmate's sentence.

24 (b) Mandatory Education. – After the completion of subsection (a) of this section, an  
25 inmate participating in MAPP shall participate in mandatory education programs. The programs  
26 shall include, at a minimum, the following:

27 (1) A General Education Diploma (GED) if the inmate does not already possess  
28 a GED or high school diploma.

29 (2) A vocational trade program offered by the Division of Adult Correction and  
30 Juvenile Justice.

31 The mandate to complete the education programs in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this  
32 subsection may be satisfied by the inmate's completion of an accredited associate or bachelor's  
33 degree program.



1       (c) Mandatory Work Requirement. – After the completion of subsections (a) and (b) of  
2 this section, an inmate participating in MAPP shall work for Correction Enterprises, the Inmate  
3 Construction Program, or any commensurate incentive wage occupation provided by the  
4 Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. An inmate shall maintain favorable employer  
5 evaluations to earn a promotion, and an inmate's work assignments may be transferred to  
6 minimum custody or work release upon promotion.

7 **"§ 15A-1380.8. Incidents of parole.**

8       (a) Access to Parole. – Except as otherwise provided in this section, an inmate sentenced  
9 to life imprisonment without parole shall be subject to the conditions and procedures set forth in  
10 Article 85 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes, including the notification requirement in  
11 G.S. 15A-1371(b)(3), after completion of subsections (a), (b), and (c) of G.S. 15A-1380.7.

12       (b) Term of Parole. – The term of parole for an inmate released pursuant to this Article  
13 from imprisonment from a sentence of life imprisonment without parole shall be five years and  
14 may be terminated earlier by the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission.

15       (c) Parole Violation. – An inmate sentenced to life imprisonment without parole who is  
16 paroled pursuant to this Article and who then violates a condition of parole and is returned to  
17 prison to serve the life sentence shall not be eligible for parole for five years from the date of the  
18 return to imprisonment.

19       (d) Life Imprisonment Without Parole. – Under this Article, if an inmate sentenced to life  
20 imprisonment without parole does not earn parole by complying with subsections (a), (b), and  
21 (c) of G.S. 15A-1380.7, the inmate shall remain imprisoned for the inmate's natural life.

22 **"§ 15A-1380.9. Retroactive application.**

23       (a) Retroactive Parole Eligibility. – An inmate sentenced to life imprisonment without  
24 parole who has already served 20 or more years in prison by August 1, 2021, and who has  
25 completed some or most of subsections (a), (b), and (c) of G.S. 15A-1380.7 prior to that date  
26 shall be eligible for a modified Mutual Agreement Parole Program contract of one to three years.

27       (b) Post-Release Supervision. – Upon release pursuant to this section, inmates shall serve  
28 a period of five years of post-release supervision in compliance with G.S. 15A-1380.8."

29       **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective August 1, 2021, and applies retroactively  
30 and prospectively to those persons serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole.