

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1042 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY N. NELSON, MIHALEK, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, BOYD,
CURRY, D. WILLIAMS, BRIGGS, CEPHAS, PIELLI, KINKEAD, RIVERA
AND O'MARA, MARCH 25, 2025

SENATOR BAKER, JUDICIARY, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, JULY 10, 2026

AN ACT

~~Amending Titles 61 (Prisons and Parole) and 63 (Professions and~~ <--
~~Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania~~
~~Consolidated Statutes, in general administration, providing~~
~~for earned vocational training and education credit; in~~
~~Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing~~
~~for parole power and for short sentence parole; and, in~~
~~powers and duties, further providing for consideration of~~
~~criminal convictions.~~
AMENDING TITLE 61 (PRISONS AND PAROLE) OF THE PENNSYLVANIA <--
CONSOLIDATED STATUTES, IN GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, PROVIDING
FOR EARNED VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION CREDIT; AND, IN
PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE, FURTHER PROVIDING
FOR PAROLE POWER AND FOR SHORT SENTENCE PAROLE.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 11 of Title 61 of the Pennsylvania
Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

SUBCHAPTER E

EARNED VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION CREDIT

Sec.

1181. Scope and purpose of subchapter.

1182. Earned vocational training and education credit.

1 1183. Rules and regulations.

2 1184. Construction.

3 § 1181. Scope and purpose of subchapter.

4 This subchapter relates to earned vocational training and
5 education credits. This subchapter seeks to encourage inmate
6 participation and completion of inmate vocational training and
7 education programs for the purposes of improving public safety
8 outcomes.

9 § 1182. Earned vocational training and education credit.

10 (a) Training and credit.--Except as provided under this
11 section, an inmate sentenced on or after the effective date of
12 this section and committed to the department shall earn
13 vocational training and education credit toward reduction of an
14 aggregate minimum sentence according to the following schedule:

15 (1) Up to 90 days for completing a vocational program as
16 determined by the department.

17 (2) UP TO 120 days for attaining a general education <--
18 development or high school diploma.

19 (3) Up to 90 days for completing a course offered from
20 an institution of higher education, as determined by the
21 department.

22 (4) UP TO 180 days for attaining a degree from an <--
23 institution of higher education.

24 (b) Limitation.--An inmate may not earn vocational training
25 and education credits under subsection (a) in excess of one-
26 fourth of the inmate's minimum sentence. Credits earned shall
27 not be applied until the inmate has completed programming
28 required by the department. Credits shall not be applied if the
29 inmate has less than nine months to serve before parole
30 eligibility.

1 (c) Exclusions.--An inmate sentenced for a conviction of any
2 of the following OR SENTENCED FOR A CONVICTION OF CRIMINAL <--
3 ATTEMPT OF, CRIMINAL SOLICITATION OF OR CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY TO
4 COMMIT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING may not earn vocational training and
5 education credits under subsection (a):

6 (1) ~~18 Pa.C.S. § 2502 (relating to murder).~~ AN OFFENSE <--
7 UNDER 18 PA.C.S. CH. 25 (RELATING TO CRIMINAL HOMICIDE).

8 ~~(2) 18 Pa.C.S. § 2507 (relating to criminal homicide of~~ <--
9 ~~law enforcement officer).~~

10 ~~(3)~~ (2) An offense requiring registration under 42 <--
11 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. H (relating to registration of sexual
12 offenders) or I (relating to continued registration of sexual
13 offenders).

14 ~~(4) (i)~~ (3) A second or subsequent crime of violence as <--
15 defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9714(g) (relating to sentences
16 for second and subsequent offenses). <--

17 ~~(ii) Criminal attempt, criminal solicitation or~~
18 ~~criminal conspiracy to commit a crime of violence as~~
19 ~~defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9714(g) or an equivalent crime in~~
20 ~~another jurisdiction.~~ OR AN EQUIVALENT CRIME IN ANOTHER <--
21 JURISDICTION.

22 (c.1) Misconduct.--A person shall not be eligible for earned
23 vocational and education credits under subsection (a) if the
24 person has been found guilty of a major disciplinary infraction
25 involving drugs, violence or a sexual act after the effective <--
26 date of this subsection DURING THE SENTENCE THAT THE PERSON IS <--
27 SERVING.

28 (d) Parole.--The board may exercise its power to parole an
29 inmate at the expiration of the minimum term of imprisonment
30 fixed by the sentencing court less any earned vocational

training and education credits as provided under this
subchapter.

(e) Notice.--Eligibility for earned vocational training and
education credits shall be considered an element of the
disposition and sentence for the purposes of notice requirements
under section 213(f) of the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882,
No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act.

(F) CREDIT CONSIDERATION.--EARNING VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND <--
EDUCATION CREDIT UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE CONSIDERED
EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF AN
INDIVIDUALIZED ASSESSMENT UNDER 63 PA.C.S. § 3113(C)(6)
(RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS).

§ 1183. Rules and regulations.

The department and board may adopt and promulgate rules and
regulations as deemed necessary to implement and administer this
subchapter.

§ 1184. Construction.

(a) Construction.--This chapter shall not be construed to
confer any legal right upon an individual to:

(1) Participate in an earned vocational training or
education credit program.

(2) Continue participation in an earned vocational
training or education credit program.

(3) File a cause of action in any court to challenge the
department's determination regarding participation or
completion of any earned vocational training or education
credit program.

(b) (Reserved).

Section 2. Sections 6137(a)(3) and (3.1)(i) and (g)(2),
(2.1), (4) introductory paragraph and (5) and 6137.1(b) of Title

1 61 are amended to read:

2 § 6137. Parole power.

3 (a) General criteria for parole.--

4 * * *

5 (3) The power to parole granted under this section to
6 the board may not be exercised in the board's discretion at
7 any time before, but only after, the expiration of the
8 minimum term of imprisonment fixed by the court in its
9 sentence, less any vocational training and education credits
10 under Subchapter E of Chapter 11 (relating to earned
11 vocational training and education credit), or by the Board of
12 Pardons in a sentence which has been reduced by commutation.

13 (3.1) (i) Following the expiration of the offender's
14 minimum term of imprisonment, less any vocational
15 training and education credits under Subchapter E of
16 Chapter 11, if the primary reason for not paroling the
17 offender is the offender's inability to access and
18 complete prescribed programming within the correctional
19 institution, the board may release the offender on parole
20 with the condition that the offender complete the
21 prescribed programming while on parole.

22 * * *

23 (g) Procedures for Recidivism Risk Reduction Incentive.--

24 * * *

25 (2) Upon identification of an inmate as an eligible
26 offender, as defined under section 4503 (relating to
27 definitions), the department shall send notice to the board.
28 The board shall send notice to the prosecuting attorney and
29 the court no less than six months before the expiration of
30 the offender's minimum sentence or the inmate's minimum

1 sentence less any vocational training and educational credits
2 under Subchapter E of Chapter 11, whichever occurs first,
3 indicating that the department has preliminarily identified
4 the offender as an eligible offender. The notice shall be
5 sent by United States mail unless the board, the court and
6 the prosecutor have consented to receipt of notice via
7 electronic means. For offenders committed to the department
8 whose expiration of the minimum sentence is six months or
9 less from the date of admission, the department shall give
10 prompt notice.

11 (2.1) The department shall provide the board all
12 information related to the offender's adjustment while
13 incarcerated, misconducts, if any, information related to
14 programming and treatment, including success, completion or
15 failure to complete, any vocational training and education
16 credit earned under Subchapter E of Chapter 11, or any other
17 information the department deems relevant. The board shall
18 send such information to the prosecuting attorney and to the
19 court no less than six months before the expiration of the
20 offender's minimum sentence. The notice may be sent
21 electronically. For offenders committed to the department
22 whose expiration of the minimum sentence is six months or
23 less from the date of admission, such information shall be
24 sent at the same time prompt notice under paragraph (2) is
25 given.

26 * * *

27 (4) If no notice of objection has been filed under
28 paragraph (3), the eligible offender shall be paroled at the
29 minimum date, or the minimum date less any vocational
30 training and education credits under Subchapter E of Chapter

1 11, whichever occurs first, upon a determination by the board
2 or the board's designee that all of the following apply:

3 * * *

4 (5) If the court or prosecuting attorney files a timely
5 objection under paragraph (3), the board shall make a
6 determination as to whether the offender is an eligible
7 offender. The board shall notify the department, prosecuting
8 attorney and court of its determination no later than 30 days
9 prior to the minimum parole date[.], or a minimum parole date
10 less any earned vocational training and education credits
11 under Subchapter E of Chapter 11, whichever occurs first. If
12 the board determines that the offender is an eligible
13 offender under this chapter, the board shall follow the
14 provisions under paragraph (4). If the board determines that
15 the offender is not an eligible offender under section 4503
16 (relating to definitions), the board shall retain exclusive
17 jurisdiction to grant parole and shall determine whether the
18 offender should be paroled at the minimum date, less any
19 earned vocational training and education credits under
20 Subchapter E of Chapter 11, paroled at a later date or denied
21 parole.

22 * * *

23 § 6137.1. Short sentence parole.

24 * * *

25 (b) Approval of parole.--The board shall, without requiring
26 an interview, approve for parole a person eligible for short
27 sentence parole under this section at the expiration of the
28 person's minimum date or recidivism risk reduction incentive
29 minimum date, less any earned vocational training and education
30 credits under Subchapter E of Chapter 11 (relating to earned

vocational training and education credit), whichever is shorter.

If the person was committed to the department after expiration of the person's minimum date, the board shall approve the person for parole within 30 days after commitment to the department.

* * *

~~Section 3. Section 3113(c)(6) and (c)(1) of Title 63 are amended to read:~~

~~§ 3113. Consideration of criminal convictions.~~

* * *

~~(c) Individualized assessment. A licensing board or licensing commission shall conduct an individualized assessment of the individual with respect to criminal convictions and rehabilitation. The licensing board or licensing commission shall only consider the following factors in order to determine whether the individual meets the requirements for issuance of a license, certificate, registration or permit under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2):~~

* * *

~~(6) Successful completion of education and training activities, including those in a county correctional facility or the Department of Corrections, and earning of vocational training and education credits, if applicable.~~

* * *

~~(e) Crimes of violence. An individual convicted of a crime of violence as defined in 42 Pa.C.S. § 9714 (relating to sentences for second and subsequent offenses) may be granted a license, registration, certificate or permit by a licensing board or licensing commission if all of the following apply:~~

~~(1) If the individual was incarcerated, at least three years have elapsed since release from incarceration. The~~

1 ~~period of three years shall be tolled for a violation of~~
2 ~~parole. The period of three years under this paragraph shall~~
3 ~~be reduced by a period of time equal to any earned vocational~~
4 ~~training and education credits under 61 Pa.C.S. Ch. 11 Subch.~~
5 ~~E (relating to earned vocational training and education~~
6 ~~credit).~~

7 * * *

8 Section 4 3. This act shall take effect in one year.

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