

AMENDMENTS TO LB215

Introduced by Judiciary.

1        1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new  
2 sections:

3        **Section 1.** (1) The Legislature finds that individuals serving long-  
4 term or life sentences who are rehabilitated and ready to be safely  
5 released from incarceration should be able to earn a second chance by  
6 receiving a commutation of their sentences from the Board of Pardons.  
7 Such commutation is intended to allow such rehabilitated individuals to  
8 be responsibly reintegrated into their communities while on parole and,  
9 if successful on parole, as fully free individuals.

10        (2) For purposes of this section, second chance relief means a  
11 program through which the department, the Division of Parole Supervision,  
12 and the Board of Parole identify eligible committed offenders and work  
13 with them to apply for a commutation from the Board of Pardons.

14        (3) The department, the Division of Parole Supervision, and the  
15 Board of Parole shall establish a program to provide second chance relief  
16 as provided in this section.

17        (4) A committed offender serving a sentence of imprisonment,  
18 including life imprisonment, is eligible for second chance relief under  
19 this section as follows:

20        (a) For an offense committed when the offender was younger than  
21 twenty-six years of age, after serving at least twenty-five years of a  
22 sentence of imprisonment; or

23        (b) For an offense committed when the offender was twenty-six years  
24 of age or older, after serving at least thirty years of a sentence of  
25 imprisonment.

26        (5) The department shall regularly identify committed offenders who  
27 are eligible for second chance relief under this section or who will

1 become eligible within five years. The department shall regularly provide  
2 lists of such offenders to the Board of Parole. The board shall advise  
3 such offenders regarding the second chance relief program and work with  
4 interested offenders to improve their chances of obtaining second chance  
5 relief through rehabilitation and good behavior.

6 (6) In determining whether an eligible committed offender is  
7 rehabilitated and a good candidate for second chance relief, the Board of  
8 Parole shall:

9 (a) Complete a risk assessment for the committed offender; and

10 (b) Involve community leaders and stakeholders in the review process  
11 to ensure that public safety and community concerns are addressed.

12 (7) If the Board of Parole determines that an eligible committed  
13 offender is rehabilitated and a good candidate for second chance relief,  
14 the board shall make a recommendation to the Board of Pardons that such  
15 offender's sentence be commuted.

16 (8)(a) If the Board of Pardons receives a recommendation for second  
17 chance relief from the Board of Parole, the Board of Pardons may consider  
18 whether to grant a commutation of some or all of the remainder of a  
19 committed offender's sentence to a term of parole.

20 (b) If the Board of Pardons determines not to grant a commutation,  
21 the board may provide the committed offender with a list of steps or  
22 requirements that, if satisfied, would increase the committed offender's  
23 chances of being granted a commutation at a subsequent review. The Board  
24 of Pardons may also provide a process for seeking a subsequent  
25 commutation review.

26 (9) If a committed offender is granted a commutation and paroled  
27 under this section, the Board of Parole shall:

28 (a) Develop a detailed reentry plan tailored to the committed  
29 offender's needs, including job placement, housing support, and access to  
30 continuing education and mental health services;

31 (b) Provide the committed offender with access to mentorship

1 programs and community support networks to facilitate successful  
2 reintegration into the community;

3 (c) Provide for victim and community involvement through restorative  
4 justice programs. The Board of Parole shall offer restorative justice  
5 opportunities, when appropriate, to allow the committed offender to make  
6 amends with victims and the community; and

7 (d) Provide for accountability and monitoring by requiring regular  
8 check-ins with parole officers and continuous monitoring during the  
9 initial phase of reentry to ensure compliance with conditions of parole.

10 (10) The Board of Parole shall implement a system for ongoing  
11 evaluation and adjustment of the second chance relief program based on  
12 outcomes and feedback.

13 **Sec. 2.** Section 83-1,135, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
14 amended to read:

15 83-1,135 Sections 83-170 to 83-1,135.05 and section 1 of this act  
16 shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Treatment and Corrections  
17 Act.

18 **Sec. 3.** Original section 83-1,135, Reissue Revised Statutes of  
19 Nebraska, is repealed.