

good time. Some states do it the reverse. You go in there without good time and you earn it. But at any rate, the way it works is that the amount of good time that you're given when you first enter the penitentiary is subtracted from the minimum sentence that you get to determine when you're eligible for the Parole Board to give you hearings to see if they will release you. Eligibility does not mean that you'll be released. It simply means you're in a position for the Parole Board to grant you a hearing and see whether or not they choose to release you. The good time that you're given when you first get in is also subtracted from the top end of the sentence which is the maximum. That determines the date, if you don't lose good time, when they have to release you if you're not given parole. Because of the complexity of the system and the fact that some people would reach their mandatory release date before they were even eligible to be considered for parole, some individuals were being released without any parole supervision whatsoever. So rather than have these different methods of calculating based on so much this year, so much the following year and so forth, the department, in the interest of simpler bookkeeping and to make sure that anybody who is released would still have the possibility of being supervised by the Board of Parole, want it to say you just give a flat six months for each year. There is not the graduated or changed means by which parole is granted. I handed you a statement from the representative of the Department of Corrections who testified before the committee. I was not there because I had to give some bills before the Government Committee so this gentleman pointed out what the bill is about. And the significant part relates to where he said that they will do away with the various types of...well, I'll just read what he said. "This is going to combine the two forms of statutorily provided good time into one form that would provide for easier and more efficient recordkeeping." There is a fiscal impact on this bill. And as a result of paroling more people earlier, after the first year the fiscal note projects a savings of \$1,428,000. The other significant effects of this bill is that no one will become eligible for parole after their mandatory discharge date. And that goes to what I was trying to explain but which may have been more complicated and confused after my explanation. Under the current law, a person can reach a date when they must be discharged before they are even eligible to be considered for parole. Since they must mandatorily be discharged before the Parole Board can even consider their case, there is no way for there to be Parole Board supervision. So if you can keep in mind that eligibility