

SENATE BILL NO. 603

October 09, 2025, Introduced by Senators CHANG, BAYER, GEISS, SHINK, CAVANAGH, ANTHONY, MCMORROW and SANTANA and referred to Committee on Elections and Ethics.

A bill to amend 1953 PA 232, entitled
"Corrections code of 1953,"
by amending sections 34c and 35 (MCL 791.234c and 791.235), section
34c as added by 2012 PA 24 and section 35 as amended by 2024 PA
111.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 34c. (1) The department, by contract or otherwise, shall
- 2 assist prisoners with reentry into the community, including, but
- 3 not limited to, doing ~~both~~**all** of the following:

1 (a) Assisting prisoners in obtaining the identification
2 documents described in this section.

3 (b) Subject to the department's security needs, reasonably
4 allowing prisoners to obtain the following identification documents
5 before those prisoners are released on parole or discharged upon
6 completion of their maximum sentences:

7 (i) Any of the identification documents that, in combination
8 with the prisoner identification card issued under section 37(4),
9 would satisfy the application requirements for obtaining an
10 operator's license or **an official** state personal identification
11 card as established by the secretary of state under section 307 of
12 the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.307, or section 1
13 of 1972 PA 222, MCL 28.291.

14 (ii) A ~~social security~~ **Social Security** card or ~~social security~~
15 **Social Security** number verification, if possible to obtain.

16 ~~(2) A prisoner's refusal to obtain or attempt to obtain the~~
17 ~~documents identified in subsection (1)(b) may be included as part~~
18 ~~of the prisoner's parole eligibility report, as provided in section~~
19 ~~35(7)(e).~~

20 (c) **Providing prisoners with a written document that contains**
21 **all of the following information regarding voter registration and**
22 **election processes:**

23 (i) **That, under the laws of this state, an individual who is**
24 **released from confinement may, if otherwise eligible, register and**
25 **vote.**

26 (ii) **Specific information on voter registration and how to vote**
27 **in person on election day, in person during the early voting**
28 **period, or by absentee ballot.**

29 (iii) **The regular election dates as provided under section 641**

1 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.641.

2 (2) ~~(3)~~ This section applies to all prisoners who are serving
 3 a sentence under the jurisdiction of the department after the
 4 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that added this section~~
 5 **February 23, 2012** who are eligible to obtain an operator's license
 6 under section 307 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL
 7 257.307, or ~~a~~ **an official** state personal identification card under
 8 section 1 of 1972 PA 222, MCL 28.291.

9 (3) ~~(4)~~ The department shall include in writing to each
 10 prisoner the information described in section 14(9)(b) of chapter
 11 XI of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 771.14,
 12 listing the identification documents referenced in subsection (1).
 13 For a prisoner who begins serving a sentence under the jurisdiction
 14 of the department after ~~the effective date of the amendatory act~~
 15 ~~that added this section,~~ **February 23, 2012**, the department shall
 16 provide that written information during reception center
 17 processing. For any prisoner who is under the jurisdiction of the
 18 department on ~~the effective date of the amendatory act that added~~
 19 ~~this section,~~ **February 23, 2012**, the department shall provide that
 20 written information ~~as follows:~~

21 ~~(a) For a prisoner with less than 1 year remaining before~~
 22 ~~parole eligibility, within 90 days after that effective date.~~

23 ~~(b) For any other prisoner, the information shall be given at~~
 24 the time the parole eligibility report is prepared.

25 (4) ~~(5)~~ The department shall allow the secretary of state to
 26 have electronic access to prisoner information for the purpose of
 27 verifying the identity of prisoners who apply for ~~driver licenses~~
 28 **an operator's license** or **an official** state personal identification
 29 ~~eards.~~ **card.**

1 (5) ~~(6)~~—The reentry success fund is created within the state
2 treasury. The state treasurer may receive money or other assets
3 from any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer
4 shall direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall
5 credit to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.
6 Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year ~~shall~~**must** remain
7 in the fund and ~~shall~~**must** not lapse to the general fund. The
8 department ~~of corrections~~ shall expend money from the reentry
9 success fund, upon appropriation, only for the expenses of
10 performing the activities required by this section.

11 **(6) The secretary of state shall create a written document**
12 **that includes all of the information described in subsection**
13 **(1) (c) .**

14 Sec. 35. (1) The release of a prisoner on parole must be
15 granted solely upon the initiative of the parole board. There is no
16 entitlement to parole. The parole board may grant a parole without
17 interviewing the prisoner if, after evaluating the prisoner
18 according to the parole guidelines, the parole board determines
19 that the prisoner has a high probability of being paroled and the
20 parole board therefore intends to parole the prisoner. Except as
21 provided in subsection (2), a prisoner must not be denied parole
22 without an interview before 1 member of the parole board. The
23 interview must be conducted at least 1 month before the expiration
24 of the prisoner's minimum sentence less applicable good time and
25 disciplinary credits for a prisoner eligible for good time and
26 disciplinary credits, or at least 1 month before the expiration of
27 the prisoner's minimum sentence for a prisoner subject to
28 disciplinary time. The parole board shall consider any statement
29 made to the parole board by a crime victim under the William Van

1 Regenmorter crime victim's rights act, 1985 PA 87, MCL 780.751 to
2 780.834, or under any other provision of law. The parole board
3 shall not consider any of the following factors in making a parole
4 determination:

5 (a) A juvenile record that a court has ordered the department
6 to expunge.

7 (b) Information that is determined by the parole board to be
8 inaccurate or irrelevant after a challenge and presentation of
9 relevant evidence by a prisoner who has received a notice of intent
10 to conduct an interview as provided in subsection (4). This
11 subdivision applies only to presentence investigation reports
12 prepared before April 1, 1983.

13 (2) If, after evaluating a prisoner according to the parole
14 guidelines, the parole board determines that the prisoner has a low
15 probability of being paroled and the parole board therefore does
16 not intend to parole the prisoner, the parole board is not required
17 to interview the prisoner before denying parole to the prisoner.

18 (3) The parole board may consider but shall not base a
19 determination to deny parole solely on either of the following:

20 (a) A prisoner's marital history.

21 (b) Prior arrests not resulting in conviction or adjudication
22 of delinquency.

23 (4) If an interview is to be conducted, the prisoner must be
24 sent a notice of intent to conduct an interview not less than 1
25 month before the date of the interview. The notice must state the
26 specific issues and concerns that will be discussed at the
27 interview and that may be a basis for a denial of parole. The
28 parole board shall not deny parole based on reasons other than
29 those stated in the notice of intent to conduct an interview except

1 for good cause stated to the prisoner at or before the interview
2 and in the written explanation required by subsection (18).

3 (5) Except for good cause, the parole board member conducting
4 the interview shall not have cast a vote for or against the
5 prisoner's release before conducting the current interview. Before
6 the interview, the parole board member who is to conduct the
7 interview shall review pertinent information relative to the notice
8 of intent to conduct an interview.

9 (6) A prisoner may waive the right to an interview by 1 member
10 of the parole board. The waiver of the right to be interviewed must
11 be in writing and given not more than 30 days after the notice of
12 intent to conduct an interview is issued. During the interview held
13 under a notice of intent to conduct an interview, the prisoner may
14 be represented by an individual of ~~his or her~~ **the prisoner's**
15 choice. The representative shall not be another prisoner or an
16 attorney. A prisoner is not entitled to appointed counsel at public
17 expense. The prisoner or representative may present relevant
18 evidence in support of release.

19 (7) ~~At least~~ **Not less than** 90 days before the expiration of
20 the prisoner's minimum sentence less applicable good time and
21 disciplinary credits for a prisoner eligible for good time or
22 disciplinary credits, or ~~at least~~ **not less than** 90 days before the
23 expiration of the prisoner's minimum sentence for a prisoner
24 subject to disciplinary time, or the expiration of a 12-month
25 continuance for any prisoner, or at the request of the parole board
26 for a prisoner being considered for parole under subsection (10),
27 the appropriate institutional staff shall prepare a parole
28 eligibility report. The parole eligibility report is considered
29 pertinent information for purposes of subsection (5). The report

1 must include all of the following:

2 (a) A statement of all major misconduct charges of which the
3 prisoner was found guilty and the punishment served for the
4 misconduct.

5 (b) The prisoner's work and educational record while confined.

6 (c) The results of any physical, mental, or psychiatric
7 examinations of the prisoner that may have been performed.

8 (d) Whether the prisoner fully cooperated with this state by
9 providing complete financial information as required under section
10 3a of the state correctional facility reimbursement act, 1935 PA
11 253, MCL 800.403a.

12 ~~(e) Whether the prisoner refused to attempt to obtain~~
13 ~~identification documents under section 34c, if applicable.~~

14 (e) ~~(f)~~ For a prisoner subject to disciplinary time, a
15 statement of all disciplinary time submitted for the parole board's
16 consideration under section 34 of 1893 PA 118, MCL 800.34.

17 (f) ~~(g)~~ The result on any validated risk assessment
18 instrument.

19 (8) The preparer of the report shall not include a
20 recommendation as to release on parole.

21 (9) Psychological evaluations performed at the request of the
22 parole board to assist it in reaching a decision on the release of
23 a prisoner may be performed by the same person who provided the
24 prisoner with therapeutic treatment, unless a different person is
25 requested by the prisoner or parole board.

26 (10) Except for a prisoner who was convicted of any crime that
27 is punishable by a term of life imprisonment without parole or of a
28 violation of section 520b of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328,
29 MCL 750.520b, the parole board may grant a medical parole for a

prisoner determined to be medically frail. A decision to grant a medical parole must be initiated on the recommendation of the bureau of health care services. If the bureau of health care services believes that the prisoner is medically frail, the bureau shall utilize a specialist in the appropriate field of medicine, who is not employed by the department, to evaluate the condition of the prisoner and to report on that condition to the bureau. The parole board, in consultation with the bureau of health care services, shall determine whether the prisoner is medically frail. If the parole board determines that a prisoner is medically frail and is going to be considered for parole under this subsection, the parole board shall provide the notice and medical records required under section 34(18). Unless the prosecutor of the county from which the prisoner was committed files a motion under section 34(19), the parole board may grant parole to a prisoner who is determined to be medically frail. If a motion is filed under section 34(19) and the court finds that the prisoner is eligible for parole as a result of being medically frail, and if no additional appeals are pending, the parole board may grant parole to the prisoner under this subsection. The requirements of sections 33(1)(b), (c), (d), and (f), 33b, and 34(1), (2), (3), (4), (7), (13), (14), (15), (16), and (17) do not apply to a parole granted under this subsection.

(11) The following conditions apply to a parole granted under subsection (10):

(a) A prisoner must only be released on parole under subsection (10) if ~~he or she~~ **the prisoner** agrees to all of the following:

(i) ~~His or her~~ **The parolee's** placement as approved by the

1 parole board, or, if the parolee is unable to consent because of
2 the parolee's physical or mental health condition, an individual
3 legally entitled to agree to the parolee's placement agrees to the
4 parolee's placement as approved by the parole board.

5 (ii) To the release of ~~his or her~~ **the prisoner's** medical
6 records that are directly relevant to the condition or conditions
7 rendering the prisoner medically frail to the prosecutor and
8 sentencing or successor judge of the county from which the prisoner
9 was committed before the parole board determines whether or not to
10 grant the prisoner parole under subsection (10).

11 (iii) An independent medical exam if sought by the prosecutor of
12 the county from which the prisoner was committed as provided under
13 section 34(19). If possible, this independent medical exam must
14 occur at a facility of the department. The reasonable costs of this
15 independent medical exam must be paid for by the department.

16 (b) The parolee shall adhere to the terms of ~~his or her~~ **the**
17 **parolee's** parole for the length of the parole term.

18 (c) The parole must be for a term not less than the time
19 necessary to reach the prisoner's earliest release date.

20 (d) If the parolee is medically frail as described under
21 subsection (20)(d)(ii) and placement of the parolee under
22 subdivision (a) is not in a medical facility, the parole board
23 shall require the parolee to be subject to electronic monitoring at
24 the time the parolee is released on parole. The parole board may
25 remove a requirement for a parolee to be subject to electronic
26 monitoring under this subdivision if the parole board determines
27 electronic monitoring is not necessary to protect public safety. A
28 requirement for electronic monitoring under this subdivision is in
29 addition to any other requirement for electronic monitoring or

1 monitoring by a global positioning monitoring system under another
2 law of this state.

3 (e) A parolee who violates the terms of ~~his or her~~ **the**
4 **parolee's** parole or is determined to no longer meet the definition
5 of medically frail may be transferred to a setting more appropriate
6 for the medical needs of the parolee or be subject to the parole
7 violation process under sections 38, 39, 39a, and 40a as determined
8 by the parole board and the department.

9 (f) If the parolee is placed in a medical facility under
10 subdivision (a), the parolee must only be placed in a medical
11 facility that agrees to accept the parolee.

12 (12) The department shall not retain authority over the
13 medical treatment plan for a prisoner granted parole under
14 subsection (10) and, if a prisoner granted parole under subsection
15 (10) is placed in a medical facility, the parolee must have full
16 patient rights at the medical facility.

17 (13) The department and the parole board shall ensure that the
18 placement and terms and conditions of a parole granted under
19 subsection (10) do not violate any other state or federal
20 regulations.

21 (14) A medical facility housing parolees granted parole under
22 subsection (10) must be operated in a manner that ensures the
23 safety of the residents of the medical facility.

24 (15) A parolee granted parole under subsection (10) and placed
25 in a medical facility has the same patient rights and
26 responsibilities as any other individual who is a resident of or
27 has been admitted to the medical facility. The medical facility is
28 not responsible for the enforcement of conditions of parole or the
29 reporting of violations of conditions of parole for any parolee

1 placed in the medical facility. The medical facility shall comply
2 with state and federal laws and regulations that protect resident
3 rights and state and federal laws and regulations for skilled
4 nursing facilities, regardless of the conditions of parole imposed
5 on a resident parolee.

6 (16) The process for a parole determination under subsection
7 (10) does not change or affect any of the rights afforded to a
8 victim under the William Van Regenmorter crime victim's rights act,
9 1985 PA 87, MCL 780.751 to 780.834.

10 (17) The department shall file a petition to the appropriate
11 court under section 434 of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL
12 330.1434, for any prisoner being paroled or being released after
13 serving ~~his or her~~ **the prisoner's** maximum sentence whom the
14 department considers to be a person requiring treatment. The parole
15 board shall require mental health treatment as a special condition
16 of parole for any parolee whom the department has determined to be
17 a person requiring treatment whether or not the petition filed for
18 that prisoner is granted by the court. As used in this subsection,
19 "person requiring treatment" means that term as defined in section
20 401 of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1401.

21 (18) When the parole board makes a final determination not to
22 release a prisoner, the parole board shall provide the prisoner
23 with a written explanation of the reason for denial and, if
24 appropriate, specific recommendations for corrective action the
25 prisoner may take to facilitate release.

26 (19) This section does not apply to the placement on parole of
27 a person in conjunction with special alternative incarceration
28 under section 34a(7).

29 (20) As used in this section:

1 (a) "Activities of daily living" means basic personal care and
2 everyday activities as described in 42 CFR 441.505, including, but
3 not limited to, tasks such as eating, toileting, grooming,
4 dressing, bathing, and transferring from 1 physical position to
5 another, including, but not limited to, moving from a reclining
6 position to a sitting or standing position.

7 (b) "Electronic monitoring" means that term as defined in
8 section 85.

9 (c) "Medical facility" means a hospital, hospice, nursing
10 home, or other housing accommodation providing medical treatment
11 suitable to the condition or conditions rendering a parolee
12 medically frail.

13 (d) "Medically frail" describes an individual who is a minimal
14 threat to society as a result of the individual's medical
15 condition, whose recent conduct in prison indicates the individual
16 is unlikely to engage in assaultive conduct, and who has 1 or more
17 of the following:

18 (i) A permanent physical disability or serious and complex
19 medical condition resulting in the inability to walk, stand, or sit
20 without personal assistance.

21 (ii) A terminal medical or neurological condition resulting in
22 a life expectancy of under 18 months.

23 (iii) A permanent disabling mental disorder, including dementia,
24 Alzheimer's, or a similar degenerative brain disorder that results
25 in the need for nursing home level of care, and a significantly
26 impaired ability to perform 2 or more activities of daily living.