



New Hampshire State Senate ***NEWS RELEASE***

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Contact:
Carole Alfano, 271-7585
carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us

Senate gets tough on violent criminals, passes SB 52

State parole board to make decisions regarding early release; recommitment for parole violations

(Concord) Making good on a campaign promise to voters to get tougher on violent criminals, the Senate passed SB 52 today. The measure is aimed at returning to the state's parole board the power to determine which violent and sexual offenders should be released from prison and how long a parolee can be sent back to prison after a parole violation.

Under SB 52, individuals who have been convicted of violent crimes and sexual offenses will no longer automatically qualify for mandatory early release. This legislation corrects an oversight in SB500 that passed in 2010 requiring early, supervised release for these types of offenders. SB500 also required that paroled criminals could only be recommitment for a parole violation for a maximum of 90 days. SB52 changes all of that, allowing the parole board to extend this term beyond 90 days should a parolee fail to meet the conditions of the release. Because this provision applies to all parolees, it gives the board discretion over both violent and non-violent offenders.

Speaking in support of the Committee of Conference report, Sen. Fenton Groen, R-Rochester, said, "With Senate Bill 52, the presumption remains that eligible, non-violent offenders would be paroled under increased supervision nine months prior to their scheduled release date. However, the Parole Board will have the authority to block a release and, in cases of parole violations, the board will be able to detain repeat offenders longer than the current 90 days. In both cases, the board has the authority to ensure potentially dangerous criminals are kept off of the streets."

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