

HB 200: Give a Second Look for Merciful Justice

Children as young as 14 who are convicted of certain serious crimes can be sentenced to a de facto life sentence — where there is no opportunity for parole until they have served, in many cases, at least 40 years behind bars. HB 200 provides an opportunity for parole consideration for individuals who were sentenced as youth to extreme terms but have rehabilitated and matured.

The numbers

40 yrs

The standard number of years when a juvenile sentenced to life with parole in Texas is eligible for parole. For many young people, life with parole in reality is a life sentence.

\$2.5M

Cost to incarcerate a youth for life in Texas. Early release for those demonstrating capacity could save Texas taxpayers nearly \$1.9M per person.

75%

According to a 2018 survey, three out of four Texas GOP voters support Second Look.

HB 200 by Rep. Brad Buckley allows for the possibility of parole no later than 20 years for a person convicted of an offense committed before the age of 18 and requires the parole board to consider the diminished culpability of juveniles and the greater capacity of juveniles for change. “Second Look” upholds the principles of restorative justice. It does not mandate parole for youthful offenders but provides an opportunity for parole consideration at 20 years rather than 40 years for serious offenses, encouraging rehabilitation for inmates and the successful reintegration into society for parolees.



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