SENATE BILL 98

43rd legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - second session, 1998

MANNY M. ARAGON

INTRODUCED BY

AN ACT

RELATING TO CRIMINAL SENTENCING; PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN

CRIMINAL OFFENDERS BE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT

THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE; PROVIDING THAT PRISONERS SENTENCED

TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE SHALL BE CONFINED TO PRISON AND SHALL

NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR SENTENCE SUSPENSION OR DEFERRAL OR FOR

MERITORIOUS DEDUCTION, INMATE RELEASE OR COMMUNITY RELEASE

PROGRAMS: AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the Criminal Code is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY

OF PAROLE--PRISON CONFINEMENT.--An immate of an institution

who is sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility

of parole shall never be eligible for a sentence suspension or

deferral or to leave the physical confines of a prison pursuant to any program, including an immate release, community release or work release program, that may be available to other prison immates."

Section 2. Section 31-18-23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1994, Chapter 24, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"31-18-23. THREE VIOLENT FELONY CONVICTIONS--MANDATORY
LIFE IMPRISONMENT--EXCEPTION.--

A. When a defendant is convicted of a third violent felony, and each violent felony conviction is part of a separate transaction or occurrence, and at least the third violent felony conviction is in New Mexico, the defendant shall, [in addition to] when the sentence imposed for the third violent conviction [when that sentence] does not result in death, be punished by a sentence of life imprisonment [The life imprisonment sentence shall be subject to parole pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978] without the possibility of parole.

- B. The sentence of life imprisonment shall be imposed after a sentencing hearing, separate from the trial or guilty plea proceeding resulting in the third violent felony conviction, pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-24 NMSA 1978.
- C. For the purpose of this section, a violent felony conviction incurred by a defendant before he reaches . 121523.1

the age of eighteen shall not count as a violent felony conviction.

D. When a defendant has a felony conviction from another state, the felony conviction shall be considered a violent felony for the purposes of the Criminal Sentencing Act if that crime would be considered a violent felony in New Mexico.

E. As used in the Criminal Sentencing Act:

(1) "great bodily harm" means an injury to
the person that creates a high probability of death or that
causes serious disfigurement or that results in permanent loss
or impairment of the function of any member or organ of the
body; and

(2) "violent felony" means:

(a) murder in the first or second degree, as provided in Section 30-2-1 NMSA 1978;

(b) shooting at or from a motor vehicle resulting in great bodily harm, as provided in Subsection B of Section 30-3-8 NMSA 1978;

(c) kidnapping resulting in great bodily harm inflicted upon the victim by his captor, as provided in Subsection B of Section 30-4-1 NMSA 1978; [and]

(d) criminal sexual penetration, as provided in Subsection C or Paragraph (5) or (6) of Subsection D of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978; and

(e) robbery while armed with a deadly weapon resulting in great bodily harm as provided in Section 30-16-2 NMSA 1978 and Subsection A of Section 30-1-12 NMSA 1978."

Section 3. Section 31-18-25 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1996, Chapter 79, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"31-18-25. TWO VIOLENT SEXUAL OFFENSE CONVICTIONS--MANDATORY LIFE IMPRISONMENT--EXCEPTION.--

A. When a defendant is convicted of a second violent sexual offense, and each violent sexual offense conviction is part of a separate transaction or occurrence, and at least the second violent sexual offense conviction is in New Mexico, the defendant shall [in addition to the punishment imposed for the second violent sexual offense conviction] be punished by a sentence of life imprisonment [The life imprisonment sentence shall be subject to parole pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978-] without the possibility of parole.

[B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this section, when a defendant is convicted of a second violent sexual offense, and each violent sexual offense conviction is part of a separate transaction or occurrence, and the victim of each violent sexual offense was less than thirteen years of age at the time of the offense, and at least the second violent sexual offense conviction is in New Mexico,

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1	the defendant shall be punished by a sentence of life						
2	imprisonment without the possibility of parole.						
3	[C.] <u>B.</u> The sentence of life imprisonment shall be						
4	imposed after a sentencing hearing, separate from the trial or						
5	guilty plea proceeding resulting in the second violent sexual						
6	offense conviction, pursuant to the provisions of Section						
7	31-18-26 NMSA 1978.						
8	$[rac{D.}{.}]$ C. For the purposes of this section, a						
9	violent sexual offense conviction incurred by a defendant						
10	before he reaches the age of eighteen shall not count as a						
11	violent sexual offense conviction.						

[E] D. When a defendant has a felony conviction from another state, the felony conviction shall be considered a violent sexual offense for the purposes of the Criminal Sentencing Act if the crime would be considered a violent sexual offense in New Mexico.

[F.] E. As used in the Criminal Sentencing Act, "violent sexual offense" means:

- (1) criminal sexual penetration in the first degree, as provided in Subsection C of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978: or
- (2)criminal sexual penetration in the second degree, as provided in Subsection D of Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978. "

Section 4. Section 31-20-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1963, . 121523. 1

Chapter 303, Section 29-15, as amended) is amended to read:

"31-20-3. ORDER DEFERRING OR SUSPENDING SENTENCE-DIAGNOSTIC COMMITMENT.--Upon entry of a judgment of conviction of any crime not constituting a capital [or] felony, a first degree felony or a felony that requires a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, any court having jurisdiction, when it is satisfied that the ends of justice and the best interest of the public as well as the defendant will be served thereby, may either:

- A. enter an order deferring the imposition of sentence:
- B. sentence the defendant and enter an order suspending in whole or in part the execution of the sentence; or
- C. commit the convicted person, if convicted of a felony and not committed for diagnostic purposes within the twelve-month period immediately preceding that conviction, to the [department of] corrections department for an indeterminate period not to exceed sixty days for purposes of diagnosis, with direction that the court be given a report when the diagnosis is complete as to what disposition appears best when the interest of the public and the individual are evaluated."
- Section 5. Section 31-20A-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1979, Chapter 150, Section 4) is amended to read:

"31-20A-3. COURT SENTENCING In a jury sentencing						
proceeding in which the jury unanimously finds beyond a						
reasonable doubt and specifies at least one of the aggravating						
circumstances enumerated in Section [6 of this act] 31-20A-5						
NMSA 1978, and unanimously specifies the sentence of death						
pursuant to Section [3 of this act] 31-20A-2 NMSA 1978, the						
court shall sentence the defendant to death. Where a sentence						
of death is not unanimously specified, or the jury does not						
make the required finding, or the jury is unable to reach a						
unanimous verdict, the court shall sentence the defendant to						
life imprisonment <u>without the possibility of parole</u> . In a						
nonjury sentencing proceeding and in cases involving a plea of						
guilty, where no jury has been demanded, the judge shall						
determine and impose the sentence, but he shall not impose the						
sentence of death except upon a finding beyond a reasonable						
doubt and specification of at least one of the aggravating						
circumstances enumerated in Section [$\frac{6 - of}{5}$ this act] $\frac{31-20A-5}{5}$						
NMSA 1978. "						

Section 6. Section 31-21-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1980, Chapter 28, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"31-21-10. PAROLE AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE. --

An immate of an institution who was sentenced to life imprisonment is not eligible for parole if he:

(1) was sentenced as the result of the commission of a capital felony; [who]

1	(2) was convicted of three violent felonies						
2	and sentenced pursuant to Sections 31-18-23 and 31-18-24 NMSA						
3	1978; or [who]						
4	(3) was convicted of two violent sexual						
5	offenses and sentenced pursuant to Subsection A of Section						
6	31-18-25 NMSA 1978 and Section 31-18-26 NMSA 1978. [becomes						
7	eligible for a parole hearing after he has served thirty years						
8	of his sentence. Before ordering the parole of an inmate						
9	sentenced to life imprisonment, the board shall:						
10	(1) interview the inmate at the institution						
11	where he is committed;						
12	(2) consider all pertinent information						
13	concerning the inmate, including:						
14	(a) the circumstances of the offense;						
15	(b) mitigating and aggravating						
16	circumstances;						
17	(c) whether a deadly weapon was used in						
18	the commission of the offense;						
19	(d) whether the immate is a habitual						
20	offender;						
21	(e) the reports filed under Section						
22	31-21-9 NMSA 1978; and						
23	(f) the reports of such physical and						
24	mental examinations as have been made while in prison;						
25	(3) make a finding that a parole is in the						
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best interest of society and the inmate; and

(4) make a finding that the inmate is able and willing to fulfill the obligations of a law-abiding citizen.

If parole is denied, the immate sentenced to life imprisonment shall again become entitled to a parole hearing at two-year intervals. The board may, on its own motion, reopen any case in which a hearing has already been granted and parole denied.

B. Unless the board finds that it is in the best interest of society and the parolee to reduce the period of parole, a person who was convicted of a capital felony shall be required to undergo a minimum period of parole of five years. During the period of parole, the person shall be under the guidance and supervision of the board.

E.] B. An inmate who was convicted of a first, second or third degree felony and who has served the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the court in a corrections facility designated by the corrections department shall be required to undergo a two-year period of parole. An inmate who was convicted of a fourth degree felony and who has served the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the court in a corrections facility designated by the corrections department shall be required to undergo a one-year period of parole. During the period of parole, the person shall be under the guidance and

supervision of the board.

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[D.] C. Every person while on parole shall remain in the legal custody of the institution from which he was released, but shall be subject to the orders of the board. The board shall furnish to each immate as a prerequisite to his release under its supervision a written statement of the conditions of parole that shall be accepted and agreed to by the inmate as evidenced by his signature affixed to a duplicate copy to be retained in the files of the board. The board shall also require as a prerequisite to release the submission and approval of a parole plan. If an inmate refuses to affix his signature to the written statement of the conditions of his parole or does not have an approved parole plan, he shall not be released and shall remain in the custody of the corrections facility in which he has served his sentence, excepting parole, until such time as the period of parole he was required to serve, less meritorious deductions, if any, expires, at which time he shall be released from that facility without parole, or until such time that he evidences his acceptance and agreement to the conditions of parole as required or receives approval for his parole plan or both. Time served from the date that an inmate refuses to accept and agree to the conditions of parole or fails to receive approval for his parole plan shall reduce the period, if any, to be served under parole at a later date. If the district court

has ordered that the inmate make restitution to a victim as provided in Section 31-17-1 NMSA 1978, the board shall include restitution as a condition of parole. The board shall also personally apprise the inmate of the conditions of parole and his duties relating thereto.

[E.] <u>D.</u> When a person on parole has performed the obligations of his release for the period of parole provided in this section, the board shall make a final order of discharge and issue him a certificate of discharge.

[F.] <u>E.</u> Pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-18-15 NMSA 1978, the board shall require the inmate as a condition of parole:

services to the adult probation and parole division of the corrections department for deposit to the corrections department intensive supervision fund not exceeding one thousand twenty dollars (\$1,020) annually to be paid in monthly installments of not less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) and not more than eighty-five dollars (\$85.00), subject to modification by the adult probation and parole division on the basis of changed financial circumstances; and

(2) to reimburse a law enforcement agency or local crime stopper program for the amount of any reward paid by the agency or program for information leading to his arrest, prosecution or conviction.

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[G.] <u>F.</u> The provisions of this section shall apply to all inmates except geriatric, permanently incapacitated and terminally ill inmates eligible for the medical and geriatric parole program as provided by the Parole Board Act."

Section 7. Section 33-2-34 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 40, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"33-2-34. MERITORIOUS DEDUCTIONS. --

A. Any inmate confined in the penitentiary of New Mexico or other institution or reintegration program designated by the corrections department for the confinement of adult criminal offenders may be awarded a meritorious deduction of thirty days per month upon recommendation of the classification committee and approval of the warden; provided that an inmate who:

(1) is sentenced to life imprisonment without
the possibility of parole shall not be eligible for
meritorious deductions;

[(1)] (2) disobeys an order to perform labor pursuant to Section 33-8-4 NMSA 1978 shall not be eligible for meritorious deductions;

 $[\frac{(2)}{(3)}]$ is in disciplinary segregation shall not be eligible for meritorious deductions;

[(3)] (4) is within his first sixty days of receipt by the department shall not be eligible for meritorious deductions; or

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[(4)] (5) is not engaged in programs recommended and approved for him by the classification committee shall not be eligible for meritorious deductions. Programs include but are not limited to education, work, counseling and the like.

The corrections department may award meritorious deductions to New Mexico inmates confined in federal and out-of-state corrections facilities on the basis of inmate conduct reports, which shall be furnished by those facilities on a periodic basis.

B. An immate whose record of conduct shows that he has performed exceptionally meritorious service and whose record of conduct shows that he has otherwise faithfully observed the rules of the institution may be eligible for a lump-sum good time award, not to exceed one year per award and not to exceed a total of one year for all lump-sum good time awards awarded in any consecutive twelve-month period, which may be deducted from the length of the sentence then remaining Exceptionally meritorious service shall include unserved. heroic acts of saving life or property, but shall not include acts in performance of normal work duties or program The classification committee and the warden may assi gnments. recommend the number of days to be awarded in each case based upon the particular merits, but any award shall be determined by the director of the adult institutions division of the

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corrections department. Allowance for exceptionally meritorious service shall be in addition to the meritorious deduction provided for in Subsection A of this section, and in the event two or more consecutive sentences are being served, the aggregate of the several sentences shall be the basis upon which the deduction shall be computed.

C. The meritorious deductions provided for in Subsections A and B of this section shall pertain to both the basic sentence to be served and any enhanced term of imprisonment pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Sentencing Act. For inmates convicted of crimes committed on or after the effective date of this 1988 act, meritorious deductions of up to ninety days per occurrence shall be permanently forfeited upon recommendation of the classification committee and approval of the warden if the inmate does not properly maintain the standard upon which the award was based. For those inmates, permanent forfeitures in excess of ninety days may be made upon approval of the director of the adult institutions division. For inmates convicted of crimes committed prior to the effective date of this 1988 act, meritorious deductions may be terminated upon recommendation of the classification committee and approval of the warden if the inmate does not properly maintain the standard upon which the award was based; provided that no inmate shall forfeit more than fifty percent of his

meritorious deductions accrued during the previous twelve months; and further provided that after forfeiture of any portion of an inmate's accrued meritorious deductions, the remainder shall vest and shall not be subject to further forfeiture.

D. The corrections department shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation and determination of meritorious deductions pursuant to this section, and the rules or regulations shall be matters of public record. A concise summary of the rules and regulations shall be provided to every inmate, and every inmate shall receive a quarterly statement of his accrued meritorious deductions."

Section 8. Section 33-2-44 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1969, Chapter 166, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"33-2-44. INMATE-RELEASE PROGRAM-STANDARDS FOR

PARTICIPATION.--The [superintendent] warden may, under the inmate-release program and at the request of a prisoner, extend the limits of confinement beyond the penitentiary of New Mexico by authorizing the prisoner to work at paid employment in private business or in public employment or to attend a school while continuing as a prisoner, if the prisoner:

- A. is a trusty or a minimum-custody inmate;
- B. has physical and mental ability to fully perform the proposed assignment consistent with his capacities . 121523.1

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and free from any out-patient care that would interfere with full performance;

- C. is not afflicted with any serious emotional or personality defect;
- D. has not been <u>sentenced to life imprisonment</u> without the <u>possibility of parole</u>, convicted of a crime involving assaultive sexual conduct [nor] or violence to a child nor has been linked with organized criminal activity; and
- E. would not, in the opinion of the [superintendent] warden, be likely to evoke an adverse public reaction by his presence in the community."
- Section 9. Section 33-9-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 202, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

"33-9-7. STATE SELECTION PANEL. --

A. The department shall establish a state panel, whose duties shall be to immediately screen and identify criminal offenders sentenced to imprisonment in a correctional facility of the department, except individuals sentenced or transferred from a judicial district [which] that has established a local panel to exercise these duties pursuant to the provisions of Section 33-9-8 NMSA 1978, who meet the following criteria:

(1) the offender has not been sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole;

[(1)] (2) the crime involved is one for which community service or reasonable restitution may be made using a payment schedule compatible with the total amount of restitution to be paid and the time the offender is to participate in a program; and

[(2)] (3) the offender is willing to enter into a contract [which] that establishes objectives [which] that shall be achieved before release from the program.

- B. The department may establish criteria in addition to those established in Subsection A of this section for the screening of criminal offenders who would benefit from participation in a program and who would not pose a threat to the community.
- C. If the state panel determines that a criminal offender is suitable for placement in a program, a recommendation to that effect and for modification of sentence shall be presented as soon as possible to the sentencing judge, who may, notwithstanding any provision of law, accept, modify or reject the recommendation. The sentencing judge's determination shall be presented to the county, municipality or private nonprofit organization, as applicable, for approval or rejection. In no event shall the sentencing judge order to be placed into a program any criminal offender whom the state selection panel has not approved."

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE **SECOND SESSION, 1998** January 30, 1998 Mr. President: Your **COMMITTEES' COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred **SENATE BILL 98** has had it under consideration and finds same to be **GERMANE**, accordance with constitutional provisions, and thence referred to the PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. Respectfully submitted, Manny M Aragon, Chairman

<u>Underscored material = new</u>
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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE SECOND SESSION, 1998 **February 4, 1998** Mr. President: Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred SENATE BILL 98 has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. Respectfully submitted, Shannon Robinson, Chairman

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Underscored material = new