



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

W. David Guice, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Erik A. Hooks, Secretary 
W. David Guice, Commissioner 

RE: Parole Eligibility Report

DATE: April 1, 2017

Pursuant to Session Law 2011- 145, SECTION 18.7.(c) The Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission shall report to the Joint Legislative Corrections, Crime Control, and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (Now known as the Justice and Public Safety Oversight Committee), and to the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees, and the Chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety by April 1, 2012.

The report shall include the following: the class of the offense for which each parole-eligible inmate was convicted and whether an inmate had multiple criminal convictions. The Commission shall reinitiate the parole review process for each offender who has served more time than that person would have under Structured Sentencing as provided by subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

The Commission shall also report on the number of parole-eligible inmates reconsidered in compliance with this section and the number who were actually paroled.

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MAILING ADDRESS:
4201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4201
www.ncdps.gov



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OFFICE LOCATION:
512 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, NC 27604
Telephone: (919) 825-2761



Post Release Supervision and Parole Commission

Parole Eligibility Report

G.S. 143B-721.1

February 15, 2017

Handwritten signature of Willis J. Fowler in black ink.

Willis J. Fowler
Chairman

Handwritten signature of James L. Forte in black ink.

James L. Forte
Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Danny G. Moody in black ink.

Danny G. Moody
Commissioner

2016 Parole Eligibility Report

February 15, 2017

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Parole Eligibility Report

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-721.1 (a) and (b), the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission compared the amount of time Pre-Structured Sentencing cases had served with the amount of time they would have served under the Structured Sentencing Law.

This report includes the following: the class of the offense for which each parole-eligible inmate was convicted and whether an inmate had multiple criminal convictions. The Commission has reinitiated the parole review process for each offender who has served more time than that person would have under Structured Sentencing as provided by subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

The Commission also reports on the number of parole-eligible inmates reconsidered in compliance with this section and the number who were actually paroled.

Class A felonies were not included since they would be sentenced to Life without Parole under the Structured Sentencing Law. Only Pre-Sentencing cases with Parole Eligibility dates on or before July 1, 2016 were considered.

The Parole Commission will continue to monitor many of these cases for subsequent comparison projects. Every effort was made to release those inmates who were judged to be an acceptable risk to the community. Others were recommended for the Mutual Agreement Parole Program to help them prepare for release through involvement in rehabilitation programs.

The following explanation and data was prepared by the Research and Planning section of the Department of Public Safety:

Parole Eligibility Report

(Actual time served by FSA offenders compared time served for similar crime under SSA)

Purpose:

- Analysis of the amount of time each inmate who is eligible for parole before July 1, 2016, has served, compared to the time served by offenders under Structured Sentencing for comparable crimes, including the class of the offense for which each parole-eligible inmate was convicted and whether an inmate had multiple criminal convictions.
- Determination as to whether the person has served more time in custody than the person would have served if sentenced to the maximum sentence under Structured Sentencing.

Methodology:

- Identify currently active inmates eligible for parole.
- Exclude DWI and First Degree Murder life sentences. (DWI is its own special case and First Degree Murder is not eligible for release under Structured Sentencing Act)
- Divide the dataset into two groups: inmates with a single commitment and those with multiple commitments.
- Determine the SSA equivalent penalty class for each crime that effects the time of the current incarceration.
- Apply the number of months for the maximum presumptive sentence under the SSA to each relevant commitment.
- Determine the number of months that the inmate has served in prison on this period of incarceration.
- Compare the two numbers.
- Create two groups
 - Compares favorable (inmate has served more time under FSA sentence than SSA)
 - Compares unfavorably (Inmate has not served as much time as SSA would require)

Results:

Table 1 displays the population breakdown for 7/1/16 that resulted in the data for this report.

Table 1

TOTAL INMATES IN THE POPULATION AS OF 1/7/17	35,658
TOTAL ELIGIBLE TO BE PAROLED LESS DWI AND 1ST DEGREE MURDER	1,588
PAROLE ELIGIBLE ON OR BEFORE 7/1/2016	1,161
NOT PAROLE ELIGIBLE ON OR BEFORE 7/1/2016	427
PAROLE ELIGIBLE (SINGLE COMMITMENT)	386
PAROLE ELIGIBLE (MULTIPLE COMMITMENTS)	775

ON 1/7/17 A TOTAL OF 1,161 INMATES HAD A PAROLE ELIGIBILITY DATE BEFORE 7/1/2016. OF THE NUMBER THAT WERE PAROLE ELIGIBLE, 142 HAVE SERVED LONGER UNDER THEIR FSA SENTENCE(S) THAN AN SSA SENTENCE FOR THE EQUIVALENT PENALTY CLASS(S) AND THE MAXIMUM PRESUMPTIVE SENTENCE FOR PRIOR RECORD LEVEL 6. TABLE 2 DISPLAYS THE TOTAL ELIGIBLE AND THOSE THAT COMPARED FAVORABLY OR UNFAVORABLY.

TABLE 2

	COMPARISON NOT FAVORABLE	COMPARISON FAVORABLE	TOTAL
PAROLE ELIGIBLE SINGLE COMMITMENT	347	39	386
PAROLE ELIGIBLE MULTIPLE COMMITMENTS	672	103	775

