

# SENATE BILL No. 973

February 11, 2004, Introduced by Senators SWITALSKI, CLARK-COLEMAN and SCOTT  
and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1953 PA 232, entitled  
"Corrections code of 1953,"  
by amending section 34 (MCL 791.234), as amended by 2002 PA 670.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 34. (1) Except as provided in section 34a, a prisoner  
2 sentenced to an indeterminate sentence and confined in a state  
3 correctional facility with a minimum in terms of years other than  
4 a prisoner subject to disciplinary time is subject to the  
5 jurisdiction of the parole board when the prisoner has served a  
6 period of time equal to the minimum sentence imposed by the court  
7 for the crime of which he or she was convicted, less good time  
8 and disciplinary credits, if applicable.

9       (2) Except as provided in section 34a, a prisoner subject to  
10 disciplinary time sentenced to an indeterminate sentence and  
11 confined in a state correctional facility with a minimum in terms

1 of years is subject to the jurisdiction of the parole board when  
2 the prisoner has served a period of time equal to the minimum  
3 sentence imposed by the court for the crime of which he or she  
4 was convicted.

5 (3) If a prisoner other than a prisoner subject to  
6 disciplinary time is sentenced for consecutive terms, whether  
7 received at the same time or at any time during the life of the  
8 original sentence, the parole board has jurisdiction over the  
9 prisoner for purposes of parole when the prisoner has served the  
10 total time of the added minimum terms, less the good time and  
11 disciplinary credits allowed by statute. The maximum terms of  
12 the sentences shall be added to compute the new maximum term  
13 under this subsection, and discharge shall be issued only after  
14 the total of the maximum sentences has been served less good time  
15 and disciplinary credits, unless the prisoner is paroled and  
16 discharged upon satisfactory completion of the parole.

17 (4) If a prisoner subject to disciplinary time is sentenced  
18 for consecutive terms, whether received at the same time or at  
19 any time during the life of the original sentence, the parole  
20 board has jurisdiction over the prisoner for purposes of parole  
21 when the prisoner has served the total time of the added minimum  
22 terms. The maximum terms of the sentences shall be added to  
23 compute the new maximum term under this subsection, and discharge  
24 shall be issued only after the total of the maximum sentences has  
25 been served, unless the prisoner is paroled and discharged upon  
26 satisfactory completion of the parole.

27 (5) If a prisoner other than a prisoner subject to

1 disciplinary time has 1 or more consecutive terms remaining to  
2 serve in addition to the term he or she is serving, the parole  
3 board may terminate the sentence the prisoner is presently  
4 serving at any time after the minimum term of the sentence has  
5 been served.

6 (6) A prisoner under sentence for life, other than a prisoner  
7 sentenced for life for murder in the first degree or sentenced  
8 for life for a violation of chapter XXXIII of the Michigan penal  
9 code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.200 to 750.212a, who has served 10  
10 calendar years of the sentence in the case of a prisoner  
11 sentenced for a crime committed before October 1, 1992, or,  
12 except as provided in subsection (10), who has served 20 calendar  
13 years of the sentence in the case of a prisoner sentenced to  
14 imprisonment for life for violating or conspiring to violate  
15 section 7401(2)(a)(i) of the public health code, 1978 PA 368,  
16 MCL 333.7401, who has another conviction for a serious crime, or,  
17 except as provided in subsection (10), who has served 17-1/2  
18 calendar years of the sentence in the case of a prisoner  
19 sentenced to imprisonment for life for violating or conspiring to  
20 violate section 7401(2)(a)(i) of the public health code, 1978  
21 PA 368, MCL 333.7401, who does not have another conviction for a  
22 serious crime, or who has served 15 calendar years of the  
23 sentence in the case of a prisoner sentenced for a crime  
24 committed on or after October 1, 1992, is subject to the  
25 jurisdiction of the parole board and may be released on parole by  
26 the parole board, subject to the following conditions:

27 (a) At the conclusion of 10 calendar years of the prisoner's

1 sentence and **every 5 years** thereafter ~~as determined by the~~  
2 ~~parole board~~ until the prisoner is paroled, discharged, or  
3 deceased, and in accordance with the procedures described in  
4 subsection (7), 1 member of the parole board shall interview the  
5 prisoner. The interview schedule prescribed in this subdivision  
6 applies to all prisoners to whom this subsection is applicable,  
7 regardless of the date on which they were sentenced.

8 ~~(b) In addition to the interview schedule prescribed in~~  
9 ~~subdivision (a), the parole board shall review the prisoner's~~  
10 ~~file at the conclusion of 15 calendar years of the prisoner's~~  
11 ~~sentence and every 5 years thereafter until the prisoner is~~  
12 ~~paroled, discharged, or deceased. A prisoner whose file is to be~~  
13 ~~reviewed under this subdivision shall be notified of the upcoming~~  
14 ~~file review at least 30 days before the file review takes place~~  
15 ~~and shall be allowed to submit written statements or documentary~~  
16 ~~evidence for the parole board's consideration in conducting the~~  
17 ~~file review.~~

18 ~~(b) —(e)~~ A decision to grant or deny parole to a prisoner so  
19 sentenced shall not be made until after a public hearing held in  
20 the manner prescribed for pardons and commutations in sections 44  
21 and 45. Notice of the public hearing shall be given to the  
22 sentencing judge, or the judge's successor in office, and parole  
23 shall not be granted if the sentencing judge, or the judge's  
24 successor in office, files written objections to the granting of  
25 the parole within 30 days of receipt of the notice of hearing.  
26 The written objections shall be made part of the prisoner's  
27 file.

1       (c) ~~—(d)—~~ A parole granted under this subsection shall be for  
2 a period of not less than 4 years and subject to the usual rules  
3 pertaining to paroles granted by the parole board. A parole  
4 ordered under this subsection is not valid until the transcript  
5 of the record is filed with the attorney general whose  
6 certification of receipt of the transcript shall be returnable to  
7 the office of the parole board within 5 days. Except for medical  
8 records protected under section 2157 of the revised judicature  
9 act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.2157, the file of a prisoner  
10 granted a parole under this subsection is a public record.

11       (d) ~~—(e)—~~ A parole shall not be granted under this subsection  
12 in the case of a prisoner who is otherwise prohibited by law from  
13 parole consideration. In such cases the interview procedures in  
14 section 44 shall be followed.

15       (7) An interview conducted under subsection (6)(a) is subject  
16 to both of the following requirements:

17       (a) The prisoner shall be given written notice, not less than  
18 30 days before the interview date, stating that the interview  
19 will be conducted.

20       (b) The prisoner may be represented at the interview by an  
21 individual of his or her choice. The representative shall not be  
22 another prisoner. A prisoner is not entitled to appointed  
23 counsel at public expense. The prisoner or representative may  
24 present relevant evidence in favor of holding a public hearing as  
25 described in subsection (6)(b).

26       (8) In determining whether a prisoner convicted of violating  
27 or conspiring to violate section 7401(2)(a)(i) of the public

1 health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7401, and sentenced to  
2 imprisonment for life before October 1, 1998 is to be released on  
3 parole, the parole board shall consider all of the following:

4 (a) Whether the violation was part of a continuing series of  
5 violations of section 7401 or 7403 of the public health code,  
6 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7401 and 333.7403, by that individual.

7 (b) Whether the violation was committed by the individual in  
8 concert with 5 or more other individuals.

9 (c) Any of the following:

10 (i) Whether the individual was a principal administrator,  
11 organizer, or leader of an entity that the individual knew or had  
12 reason to know was organized, in whole or in part, to commit  
13 violations of section 7401 or 7403 of the public health code,  
14 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7401 and 333.7403, and whether the violation  
15 for which the individual was convicted was committed to further  
16 the interests of that entity.

17 (ii) Whether the individual was a principal administrator,  
18 organizer, or leader of an entity that the individual knew or had  
19 reason to know committed violations of section 7401 or 7403 of  
20 the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7401 and 333.7403,  
21 and whether the violation for which the individual was convicted  
22 was committed to further the interests of that entity.

23 (iii) Whether the violation was committed in a drug-free  
24 school zone.

25 (iv) Whether the violation involved the delivery of a  
26 controlled substance to an individual less than 17 years of age  
27 or possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance to an

1 individual less than 17 years of age.

2 (9) Except as provided in section 34a, a prisoner's release  
3 on parole is discretionary with the parole board. The action of  
4 the parole board in granting a parole is appealable by the  
5 prosecutor of the county from which the prisoner was committed or  
6 the victim of the crime for which the prisoner was convicted.  
7 The appeal shall be to the circuit court in the county from which  
8 the prisoner was committed, by leave of the court.

9 (10) If the sentencing judge, or his or her successor in  
10 office, determines on the record that a prisoner described in  
11 subsection (6) sentenced to imprisonment for life for violating  
12 or conspiring to violate section 7401(2)(a)(i) of the public  
13 health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7401, has cooperated with law  
14 enforcement, the prisoner is subject to the jurisdiction of the  
15 parole board and may be released on parole as provided in  
16 subsection (6), 2-1/2 years earlier than the time otherwise  
17 indicated in subsection (6). The prisoner is considered to have  
18 cooperated with law enforcement if the court determines on the  
19 record that the prisoner had no relevant or useful information to  
20 provide. The court shall not make a determination that the  
21 prisoner failed or refused to cooperate with law enforcement on  
22 grounds that the defendant exercised his or her constitutional  
23 right to trial by jury. If the court determines at sentencing  
24 that the defendant cooperated with law enforcement, the court  
25 shall include its determination in the judgment of sentence.

26 (11) An individual convicted of violating or conspiring to  
27 violate section 7401(2)(a)(ii) or 7403(2)(a)(ii) of the public

1 health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7401 and 333.7403, before ~~the~~  
2 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection~~  
3 **March 1, 2003** is eligible for parole after serving the minimum of  
4 each sentence imposed for that violation or 10 years of each  
5 sentence imposed for that violation, whichever is less.

6 (12) An individual convicted of violating or conspiring to  
7 violate section 7401(2) (a) (iii) or 7403(2) (a) (iii) of the public  
8 health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7401 and 333.7403, before ~~the~~  
9 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection~~  
10 **March 1, 2003** is eligible for parole after serving the minimum of  
11 each sentence imposed for that violation or 5 years of each  
12 sentence imposed for that violation, whichever is less.

13 (13) An individual convicted of violating or conspiring to  
14 violate section 7401(2) (a) (iv) or 7403(2) (a) (iv) of the public  
15 health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7401 and 333.7403, before ~~the~~  
16 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection~~  
17 **March 1, 2003** who is sentenced to a term of imprisonment that is  
18 consecutive to a term of imprisonment imposed for any other  
19 violation of section 7401(2) (a) (i) to (iv) or section  
20 7403(2) (a) (i) to (iv) is eligible for parole after serving 1/2 of  
21 the minimum sentence imposed for each violation of  
22 section 7401(2) (a) (iv) or 7403(2) (a) (iv). This subsection does  
23 not apply if the sentence was imposed for a conviction for a new  
24 offense committed while the individual is on probation or  
25 parole.

26 (14) The parole board shall provide notice to the prosecuting  
27 attorney of the county in which the individual was convicted



1 before granting parole to the individual under subsection (11),  
2 (12), or (13).

3 (15) As used in this section:

4 (a) "Serious crime" means violating or conspiring to violate  
5 article 7 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.7101 to  
6 333.7545, that is punishable by imprisonment for more than 4  
7 years, or an offense against a person in violation of section 83,  
8 84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 316, 317, 321, 349, 349a, 350, 397, 520b,  
9 520c, 520d, 520g, 529, 529a, or 530 of the Michigan penal code,  
10 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.83, 750.84, 750.86, 750.87, 750.88, 750.89,  
11 750.316, 750.317, 750.321, 750.349, 750.349a, 750.350, 750.397,  
12 750.520b, 750.520c, 750.520d, 750.520g, 750.529, 750.529a, and  
13 750.530.

14 (b) "State correctional facility" means a facility that  
15 houses prisoners committed to the jurisdiction of the department,  
16 and includes a youth correctional facility operated under section  
17 20g by the department or a private vendor.