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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2596 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY BERNSTINE, ROAE, STAATS, R. MACKENZIE, KAUFFMAN,  
OWLETT, ZIMMERMAN, M. MACKENZIE, TWARDZIK, HAMM, KEEFER,  
JAMES, GLEIM, M. BROWN, ROWE, STRUZZI, GILLEN, SMITH AND  
SCIALABBA, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and  
3 Parole, further providing for definitions and for parole  
4 power.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 6101 of Title 61 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:  
9 § 6101. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 \* \* \*

14 "Obstruction of justice offense." An act, conspiracy or  
15 solicitation to commit any of the following offenses under 18  
16 Pa.C.S. (relating to crimes and offenses):

17 Section 4952 (relating to intimidation of witnesses or  
18 victims).

1           Section 4953 (relating to retaliation against witness,  
2 victim or party).

3           Section 4958 (relating to intimidation, retaliation or  
4 obstruction in child abuse cases).

5           Section 5121 (relating to escape).

6           Section 5122 (relating to weapons or implements for  
7 escape).

8           Section 5123(a), (a.2) or (c) (relating to contraband).

9           \* \* \*

10          "Violent offense." An act, conspiracy or solicitation to  
11 commit any of the following offenses under 18 Pa.C.S.:

12           Section 2501 (relating to criminal homicide).

13           Section 2702 (relating to aggravated assault).

14           Section 2702.1 (relating to assault of law enforcement  
15 officer).

16           Section 2703 (relating to assault by prisoner).

17           Section 2703.1 (relating to aggravated harassment by  
18 prisoner).

19           Section 2718 (relating to strangulation).

20           Section 3121 (relating to rape).

21           Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual  
22 intercourse).

23           Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

24           Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault).

25           Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

26           Section 3301 (relating to arson and related offenses).

27           Section 5501 (relating to riot).

28          Section 2. Section 6137 of Title 61 is amended by adding  
29 subsections to read:

30          § 6137. Parole power.

1 \* \* \*

2 (f.1) Violent offenses while incarcerated.--The board may  
3 not release on parole a person convicted of a violent offense  
4 committed while incarcerated for at least 24 months following  
5 the expiration of the minimum term of incarceration fixed by the  
6 court with respect to the underlying offense for which the  
7 person was originally convicted or 24 months following the  
8 conviction for the violent offense, whichever is longer.

9 (f.2) Obstruction of justice offenses while incarcerated.--  
10 The board may not release on parole a person convicted of an  
11 obstruction of justice offense committed while incarcerated for  
12 at least 12 months following the expiration of the minimum term  
13 of incarceration fixed by the court with respect to the  
14 underlying offense for which the person was originally convicted  
15 or 12 months following the conviction for the obstruction of  
16 justice offense, whichever is longer.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 3. The addition of 61 Pa.C.S. § 6137(f.1) and (f.2)  
19 shall only apply to individuals who are incarcerated for crimes  
20 committed on or after the effective date of this section.

21 Section 4. This act shall take effect as follows:

22 (1) The following shall take effect immediately:

23 (i) Section 3 of this act.

24 (ii) This section.

25 (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60  
26 days.