

Pennsylvania Felony Murder Reform

Bill Comparison: HB 443, HB 1042 and SB 1400

	House Bill 443	House Bill 1042 (Amended)	Senate Bill 1400
Bill Text	HB443	HB1042	SB 1400
Sponsor	Rep. Tim Briggs (D)	Rep. Napoleon Nelson (D)	Sen. Lisa Baker (R)
Status	Died in House Judiciary Committee	Passed out of the House on 7/23/26	Passed out of the Senate; referred 6/26 to Judiciary in the House
Sentencing range for 2nd degree murder	- No minimum terms established 30-year max for anyone under 15 at time of offense 40-year max for anyone 15 or over at time of offense 50-year max for LEO victims and unborn children	To be determined by the Sentencing Commission	Minimum 35 years, maximum LWOP, with some exceptions
Parole eligibility	Parole eligibility 25 years: those sentenced to life for murder, unborn child, LEO victi 20 years: those sentenced as juveniles for murder, unborn child, LEO victim 15 years: everyone else	After 30 years of incarceration	After 35 years of incarceration (20 years if 70+)
Culpability assessment	At parole board review, "including whether the person directly caused or intended to cause a death"	At parole board review, only specifies level of culpability	At sentencing and at parole board review, lists specific culpability considerations
Parole Board Review Timing	None	Board not required to review an application if a decision has been issued within the past 5 years	Board not required to review an application if a decision has been issued within the past 5 years

LWOP available?	No	No	Yes, if: • Acted as principal in rape • Previous conviction of crime of violence • Victim was LEO or under 13 • Serious harm caused to an additional person
Categorical exclusions from parole?	None specified	Unborn child or LEO victims	LEO victims, forcible rape, outstanding detainers, juvenile LWOP sentences, resentenced juvenile LWOP cases
Victim notice	Notice and opportunity to be heard before parole can be granted	AG, DA and OVA shall make “every reasonable effort” to notify victims of their right to make a statement or testify before the Board to share their opinion about release.	OVA shall make “every reasonable effort” to notify victims.
Mandatory life sentence (<i>with possibility of parole</i>)	No	Yes, for anyone with a previous conviction for murder or voluntary manslaughter, or if the victim was an unborn child or LEO.	Yes, for anyone with a previous conviction for murder or voluntary manslaughter, or if the victim was an unborn child or LEO.
Unrelated Provisions		• Earned vocational and education credits • Medical release	

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