

## SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

### SB 184 Adolescent Offenders/Parole by Senator Joyner

Cites this act as the "Second Chance for Children in Prison Act." Defines "adolescent offender" as an offender who was 15 years of age or younger at the time the criminal act was committed and who was sentenced to life or to a single or cumulative term of imprisonment of 10 years or more. Provides eligibility for consideration for release on parole to adolescent offenders. Disqualifies those who were convicted or adjudicated delinquent or had adjudication withheld for certain violations before conviction of the current offense. Designates that these violations include but are not limited to murder, felony battery, domestic battery by strangulation, aggravated battery, kidnapping, sexual battery, or carjacking.

Requires an initial eligibility interview to occur during the eighth year of incarceration to determine whether the offender has been sufficiently rehabilitated for parole. Requires successful completion of the General Educational Development (GED) program, unless waived based on disability and the absence of any approved disciplinary reports for a period of at least 2 years immediately prior to the current eligibility interview. Provides additional criteria for determining sufficient rehabilitation.

Provides eligibility for a reinterview after a specified period for adolescent offenders denied parole. Requires that the adolescent offender be incarcerated in a facility that has a GED program.

Provides that if the adolescent offender is granted parole, the offender must participate in any available reentry program for 2 years.

Provides eligibility for an initial eligibility interview for offenders in the eighth or subsequent year of incarceration on the effective date of this act. (See bill for details)