

1 AN ACT relating to life imprisonment for persistent felony offenders.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 532.080 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) When a defendant is found to be a persistent felony offender, the jury, in lieu of the
5 sentence of imprisonment assessed under KRS 532.060 for the crime of which such
6 person presently stands convicted, shall fix a sentence of imprisonment as
7 authorized by subsection (5) or (6) of this section. When a defendant is charged
8 with being a persistent felony offender, the determination of whether or not he is
9 such an offender and the punishment to be imposed pursuant to subsection (5) or (6)
10 of this section shall be determined in a separate proceeding from that proceeding
11 which resulted in his last conviction. Such proceeding shall be conducted before the
12 court sitting with the jury that found the defendant guilty of his most recent offense
13 unless the court for good cause discharges that jury and impanels a new jury for that
14 purpose.

15 (2) A persistent felony offender in the second degree is a person who is more than
16 twenty-one (21) years of age and who stands convicted of a felony after having been
17 convicted of one (1) previous felony. As used in this provision, a previous felony
18 conviction is a conviction of a felony in this state or conviction of a crime in any
19 other jurisdiction provided:

20 (a) That a sentence to a term of imprisonment of one (1) year or more or a
21 sentence to death was imposed therefor; and

22 (b) That the offender was over the age of eighteen (18) years at the time the
23 offense was committed; and

24 (c) That the offender:

25 1. Completed service of the sentence imposed on the previous felony
26 conviction within five (5) years prior to the date of commission of the
27 felony for which he now stands convicted; or

- 1 2. Was on probation, parole, postincarceration supervision, conditional
2 discharge, conditional release, furlough, appeal bond, or any other form
3 of legal release from any of the previous felony convictions at the time
4 of commission of the felony for which he now stands convicted; or
 - 5 3. Was discharged from probation, parole, postincarceration supervision,
6 conditional discharge, conditional release, or any other form of legal
7 release on any of the previous felony convictions within five (5) years
8 prior to the date of commission of the felony for which he now stands
9 convicted; or
 - 10 4. Was in custody from the previous felony conviction at the time of
11 commission of the felony for which he now stands convicted; or
 - 12 5. Had escaped from custody while serving any of the previous felony
13 convictions at the time of commission of the felony for which he now
14 stands convicted.
- 15 (3) A persistent felony offender in the first degree is a person who is more than twenty-
16 one (21) years of age and who stands convicted of a felony after having been
17 convicted of two (2) or more felonies, or one (1) or more felony sex crimes against
18 a minor as defined in KRS 17.500, and now stands convicted of any one (1) or more
19 felonies. As used in this provision, a previous felony conviction is a conviction of a
20 felony in this state or conviction of a crime in any other jurisdiction provided:
- 21 (a) That a sentence to a term of imprisonment of one (1) year or more or a
22 sentence to death was imposed therefor; and
 - 23 (b) That the offender was over the age of eighteen (18) years at the time the
24 offense was committed; and
 - 25 (c) That the offender:
 - 26 1. Completed service of the sentence imposed on any of the previous
27 felony convictions within five (5) years prior to the date of the

- 1 commission of the felony for which he now stands convicted; or
- 2 2. Was on probation, parole, postincarceration supervision, conditional
- 3 discharge, conditional release, furlough, appeal bond, or any other form
- 4 of legal release from any of the previous felony convictions at the time
- 5 of commission of the felony for which he now stands convicted; or
- 6 3. Was discharged from probation, parole, postincarceration supervision,
- 7 conditional discharge, conditional release, or any other form of legal
- 8 release on any of the previous felony convictions within five (5) years
- 9 prior to the date of commission of the felony for which he now stands
- 10 convicted; or
- 11 4. Was in custody from the previous felony conviction at the time of
- 12 commission of the felony for which he now stands convicted; or
- 13 5. Had escaped from custody while serving any of the previous felony
- 14 convictions at the time of commission of the felony for which he now
- 15 stands convicted.
- 16 (4) For the purpose of determining whether a person has two (2) or more previous
- 17 felony convictions, two (2) or more convictions of crime for which that person
- 18 served concurrent or uninterrupted consecutive terms of imprisonment shall be
- 19 deemed to be only one (1) conviction, unless one (1) of the convictions was for an
- 20 offense committed while that person was imprisoned.
- 21 (5) A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the second degree shall
- 22 be sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment pursuant to the sentencing
- 23 provisions of KRS 532.060(2) for the next highest degree than the offense for which
- 24 convicted. A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the second
- 25 degree shall not be eligible for probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge,
- 26 unless all offenses for which the person stands convicted are Class D felony
- 27 offenses which do not involve a violent act against a person, in which case

1 probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge may be granted. A violent
2 offender who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the second degree shall
3 not be eligible for parole except as provided in KRS 439.3401.

4 (6) A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the first degree shall be
5 sentenced to imprisonment as follows:

6 (a) *If the offense for which the person presently stands convicted is a capital*
7 *offense or a Class A or B felony and the person was previously convicted of*
8 *two (2) or more capital offenses, Class A or B felonies, or any combination*
9 *thereof, a persistent felony offender in the first degree shall be sentenced to*
10 *a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole;*

11 (b) If the offense for which he presently stands convicted is a Class A or Class B
12 felony, or if the person was previously convicted of one (1) or more sex
13 crimes committed against a minor as defined in KRS 17.500 and presently
14 stands convicted of a subsequent sex crime, a persistent felony offender in the
15 first degree shall be sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment, the
16 maximum of which shall not be less than twenty (20) years nor more than fifty
17 (50) years, or life imprisonment, or life imprisonment without parole for
18 twenty-five (25) years for a sex crime committed against a minor; *and*

19 (c)~~(b)~~ If the offense for which he presently stands convicted is a Class C or
20 Class D felony, a persistent felony offender in the first degree shall be
21 sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment, the maximum of which
22 shall not be less than ten (10) years nor more than twenty (20) years.

23 (7) A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the first degree shall not
24 be eligible for probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge, unless all
25 offenses for which the person stands convicted are Class D felony offenses which
26 do not involve a violent act against a person or a sex crime as that term is defined in
27 KRS 17.500, in which case, probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge

1 may be granted. If the offense the person presently stands convicted of is a Class A,
2 B, or C felony, the person shall not be eligible for parole until the person has served
3 a minimum term of incarceration of not less than ten (10) years, unless another
4 sentencing scheme applies. A violent offender who is found to be a persistent felony
5 offender in the first degree shall not be eligible for parole except as provided in
6 KRS 439.3401.

7 (8) A conviction, plea of guilty, or Alford plea under KRS 218A.1415 shall not trigger
8 the application of this section, regardless of the number or type of prior felony
9 convictions that may have been entered against the defendant. A conviction, plea of
10 guilty, or Alford plea under KRS 218A.1415 may be used as a prior felony offense
11 allowing this section to be applied if he or she is subsequently convicted of a
12 different felony offense.

13 (9) The provisions of this section amended by 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 396, sec. 11, shall be
14 retroactive.

15 (10) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection, this section shall not
16 apply to a person convicted of a criminal offense if the penalty for that offense
17 was increased from a misdemeanor to a felony, or from a lower felony
18 classification to a higher felony classification, because the conviction
19 constituted a second or subsequent violation of that offense.

20 (b) This subsection shall not prohibit the application of this section to a person
21 convicted of:

22 1. A felony offense arising out of KRS 189A.010, 189A.090, 506.140,
23 508.032, 508.140, or 510.015; or

24 2. Any other felony offense if the penalty was not enhanced to a higher
25 level because the Commonwealth elected to prosecute the person as a
26 first-time violator of that offense.