

SENATE BILL 69

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37;
Title 39; Title 40 and Title 41, relative to
sentencing for offenses committed by minors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-501(h)(2), is amended by deleting the language "for first degree murder" and substituting instead the language "for first degree murder that was committed when the defendant was an adult".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-501, is further amended by deleting subdivision (i)(2)(A) and substituting instead the following:

(A) Murder in the first degree, if committed by a person who was eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time of the offense;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-35-501, is further amended by adding the following new subdivision (h)(3):

(3) For offenses committed on or after July 1, 2019, there is no release eligibility for a person committing first degree murder when the person was a minor and sentenced to imprisonment for life or imprisonment for life without possibility of parole until the person has served twenty-five (25) years. The release eligibility date for any other offense sentenced to run consecutively or concurrently to the first degree murder sentence remains the same, but does not operate to extend the release eligibility date for the first degree murder offense beyond twenty-five (25) years. A defendant is entitled to earn and retain sentence credits, but the credits shall not operate to make the defendant eligible for release prior to the service of twenty-five (25) full calendar years.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.