House Bill 1310 (HB 1310) provides that prisoners who have served at least 25 years of their sentence and are over the age of 55 may petition the Prisoner Review Board (PRB) to reduce their sentence. Before the PRB reviews the petition, the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) determines whether the inmate is appropriate for the program and approves of the petition.

The PRB determines whether the inmate is eligible based on proper documentation and demonstration of:

1. Successful participation in programming;
2. Genuine reform and changed behavior;
3. Remorse for actions;
4. Ability to socialize in an acceptable manner;
5. Renunciation of criminal and gang activity; and
6. Thorough plan for future living arrangements.

Alternatively, the inmate may petition the PRB for medical parole (fewer than 9 months left to live) or the first-time non-violent offenders program. The first-time non-violent offenders program applies to any offender who meets the above criteria (55 years old and 25 years of time served) and has no prior violent convictions.

SPAC analyzed the IDOC and the Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) data for 2011 through 2013 to determine the number of inmates in IDOC who might be eligible. The data show few individuals eligible to meet the requirements to petition the PRB.

As of December 2013, fewer than 500 individuals would be eligible to petition to participate in the modification. Of those eligible, most were in prison for murder or criminal sexual assault.

SPAC was unable to determine how many inmates would be eligible under the medical release provision.

There were no first-time non-violent offenders serving more than 25 years.