
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Amber Otis, Senior Staff Attorney

August 8, 2023

2023 Wisconsin Act 31 [2023 Assembly Bill 47]

Information on and Notice of Actions by the Parole Commission

BACKGROUND

The Parole Commission is a governmental body, administratively attached to the Department of Corrections (DOC), that is tasked with considering whether an individual who committed a felony before December 31, 1999, should be granted parole. The Parole Commission is comprised of four members, including a chairperson who has final parole-granting authority. The Parole Commission may grant discretionary parole to an eligible individual that has served 25 percent of the sentence imposed for the offense, or six months, whichever is greater.

2023 WISCONSIN ACT 31

2023 Wisconsin Act 31 modifies various aspects of state law relating to the Parole Commission.

First, Act 31 requires DOC to post on its website the individuals granted parole, denied parole, and returned to prison following the revocation of parole. DOC must post aggregate numbers that identify monthly and yearly totals, with the yearly totals presented by: (1) the crime for which the individual was convicted; (2) the sex, race, and age of the individual; and (3) the locality in which the individual was convicted. Act 31 also requires DOC to post on its website any guidance documents that the Parole Commission uses to guide parole decisions.

In addition, Act 31 expands the victims entitled, upon request, to be notified when an inmate applies for parole, or is released on parole or extended supervision,¹ to include any member of the victim's family who was younger than 18 years of age at the time the crime was committed, but is now 18 years of age or older.

Act 31 also modifies the timeline by which the Parole Commission must notify certain persons that an individual has applied for parole. Under prior law, such notice must have been sent by first class mail to the last-known address of certain specified recipients, including victims who have requested such notification, at least three weeks prior to the parole interview or hearing. Act 31 increases this timeline to at least 90 days before the parole interview or hearing.

Effective date: August 6, 2023

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

AO:ksm

¹ Individuals released on extended supervision are generally subject to the bifurcated sentencing system, which applies to individuals who committed crimes on or after December 31, 1999 (in contrast to parole, sometimes referred to as "old law," which applies to offenders who committed their offenses prior to December 31, 1999). Under the bifurcated sentencing system, an offender receives a bifurcated sentence consisting of two parts: (a) a term of confinement; and (b) a term of extended supervision.