
By Mr. Ayers of Weston, petition of J. Robert Ayers for legislation relative to the release on parole by the Parole Board of certain life prisoners. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE RELEASE ON PAROLE BY THE PAROLE BOARD OF CERTAIN LIFE PRISONERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section one hundred and fifty-four A
2 of chapter one hundred and twenty-seven of the Gen-
3 eral Laws, as most recently amended by section fifty-
4 three of chapter four hundred and fifty-one of the
5 acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, is hereby
6 repealed.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 127 is hereby further
2 amended by inserting after section 133, as most re-
3 cently amended by chapter 254 of the acts of 1946,
4 the following section:—

5 *Section 133A.* In the case of every prisoner, ex-
6 cept one who has been convicted of first degree mur-
7 der, who is confined in the penal institutions of the
8 commonwealth, except the Bridgewater state hospi-
9 tal, under a sentence for the term of his or her natural
10 life, the parole board shall, within sixty days after the
11 expiration of twenty years of such sentence, and there-
12 after at least once in each ensuing three-year period,
13 consider carefully and thoroughly the merits of such
14 case on the question of releasing such person on parole.
15 After such consideration, the parole board may grant

16 to such prisoner a parole permit to be at liberty upon
17 such terms and conditions as it may prescribe for the
18 unexpired term of his sentence. Such terms and con-
19 ditions may be revised, altered and amended, and may
20 be revoked by the parole board at any time. The
21 violation by the holder of such a permit of any of
22 its terms or conditions, or of any law of the common-
23 wealth, shall render such permit void, and thereupon,
24 or if such permit has been revoked, the parole board
25 may order his arrest and his return to prison, in ac-
26 cordance with the provisions of section one hundred
27 and forty-nine.

1 SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall be ap-
2 plicable to prisoners sentenced before, as well as to
3 those sentenced on or after, its effective date.