

Earned Discharge Credits

The 2018 Legislature passed a bill (House Bill 1053) sponsored by the Department of Corrections to establish a system of earned discharge credits for inmates.

The new law allows the DOC to grant up to 90 days of earned discharge credits (EDC) to inmates for the completion of 360 hours of work, not to exceed 180 days in 12 months; up to 90 days for completion of academic, vocational or evidence based programs; and up to 365 days for heroic actions, including disaster response.

This bill becomes effective July 1, 2018, for work hours, program completion and heroic acts that occur after July 1, 2018. While all inmates, except those serving a life or death sentence or those serving a sentence for a crime committed prior to July 1, 1996, are eligible for credits, an award of EDCs is not guaranteed. There will be inmates who will be denied credits based on their risk, conduct and other factors. Inmate eligibility, the actual number of days that can be earned and other procedures will be set by DOC policy. Once this policy is approved, it will be available for inmate review. These credits give inmates an opportunity to actually earn time off their sentence and provide incentive to participate in work and rehabilitative programming.