

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 16-1200.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

**SENATE BILL 16-181**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Woods and Jahn**, Aguilar, Carroll, Cooke, Guzman, Hill, Kerr, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Newell, Scheffel, Steadman, Todd

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

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**Senate Committees**  
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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE SENTENCING OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF CLASS 1**  
102 **FELONIES COMMITTED WHILE THE PERSONS WERE JUVENILES.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

In *Miller v. Alabama* (2012), the United States supreme court held that imposing a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole on a juvenile is a cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the eighth amendment to the United States constitution. In Colorado, a juvenile sentenced for a class 1 felony committed on or after July 1, 1990, and before July 1, 2006, was sentenced to a mandatory life sentence without

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
May 3, 2016

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
May 2, 2016

the possibility of parole.

The bill provides a procedure for resentencing these offenders. A district court may resentence such an offender to:

- ! A term of life imprisonment with the possibility of parole after serving 40 years, less any earned time granted; or
- ! 24 to 48 years in prison if, after considering certain factors, the district court finds extraordinary mitigating circumstances.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1.3-401, **amend**  
3 (4) (b) (I); and **add** (4) (c) as follows:

4 **18-1.3-401. Felonies classified - presumptive penalties.**

5 (4) (b) (I) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-subparagraph (A) of  
6 subparagraph (V) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section and  
7 notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), as  
8 to a person who is convicted as an adult of a class 1 felony following  
9 direct filing of an information or indictment in the district court pursuant  
10 to section 19-2-517, C.R.S., or transfer of proceedings to the district court  
11 pursuant to section 19-2-518, C.R.S., the district court judge shall  
12 sentence the person to a term of life imprisonment with the possibility of  
13 parole after serving a period of forty ~~calendar~~ years, LESS ANY EARNED  
14 TIME GRANTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17-22.5-405, C.R.S. Regardless of  
15 whether the state board of parole releases the person on parole, the person  
16 shall remain in the legal custody of the department of corrections for the  
17 remainder of the person's life and shall not be discharged.

18 (c) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF  
19 SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBPARAGRAPH (V) OF PARAGRAPH (a) OF  
20 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION AND NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS  
21 OF PARAGRAPHS (a) AND (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (4), AS TO A PERSON

1 WHO IS CONVICTED AS AN ADULT OF A CLASS 1 FELONY FOLLOWING A  
2 DIRECT FILING OF AN INFORMATION OR INDICTMENT IN THE DISTRICT  
3 COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-2-517, C.R.S., OR TRANSFER OF  
4 PROCEEDINGS TO THE DISTRICT COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-2-518,  
5 C.R.S., OR PURSUANT TO EITHER OF THESE SECTIONS AS THEY EXISTED  
6 PRIOR TO THEIR REPEAL AND REENACTMENT, WITH AMENDMENTS, BY  
7 HOUSE BILL 96-1005, WHICH FELONY WAS COMMITTED ON OR AFTER JULY  
8 1, 1990, AND BEFORE JULY 1, 2006, AND WHO RECEIVED A SENTENCE TO  
9 LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE:

10 (A) IF THE FELONY FOR WHICH THE PERSON WAS CONVICTED IS  
11 MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-3-102 (1) (b),  
12 THEN THE DISTRICT COURT, AFTER HOLDING A HEARING, MAY SENTENCE  
13 THE PERSON TO A DETERMINATE SENTENCE WITHIN THE RANGE OF THIRTY  
14 TO FIFTY YEARS IN PRISON, LESS ANY EARNED TIME GRANTED PURSUANT  
15 TO SECTION 17-22.5-405, C.R.S., IF, AFTER CONSIDERING THE FACTORS  
16 DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (c), THE DISTRICT  
17 COURT FINDS EXTRAORDINARY MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES.  
18 ALTERNATIVELY, THE COURT MAY SENTENCE THE PERSON TO A TERM OF  
19 LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE AFTER SERVING  
20 FORTY YEARS, LESS ANY EARNED TIME GRANTED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
21 17-22.5-405, C.R.S.

22 (B) IF THE FELONY FOR WHICH THE PERSON WAS CONVICTED IS NOT  
23 MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 18-3-102 (1) (b),  
24 THEN THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL SENTENCE THE PERSON TO A TERM OF  
25 LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE AFTER SERVING  
26 FORTY YEARS, LESS ANY EARNED TIME GRANTED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
27 17-22.5-405, C.R.S.

1 (II) IN DETERMINING WHETHER EXTRAORDINARY MITIGATING  
2 CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST, THE COURT SHALL CONDUCT A SENTENCING  
3 HEARING, MAKE FACTUAL FINDINGS TO SUPPORT ITS DECISION, AND  
4 CONSIDER RELEVANT EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY EITHER PARTY REGARDING  
5 THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

6 (A) THE DIMINISHED CULPABILITY AND HEIGHTENED CAPACITY  
7 FOR CHANGE ASSOCIATED WITH YOUTH;

8 (B) THE OFFENDER'S DEVELOPMENTAL MATURITY AND  
9 CHRONOLOGICAL AGE AT THE TIME OF THE OFFENSE AND THE HALLMARK  
10 FEATURES OF SUCH AGE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IMMATURITY,  
11 IMPETUOSITY, AND INABILITY TO APPRECIATE RISKS AND CONSEQUENCES;

12 (C) THE OFFENDER'S CAPACITY FOR CHANGE AND POTENTIAL FOR  
13 REHABILITATION, INCLUDING ANY EVIDENCE OF THE OFFENDER'S EFFORTS  
14 TOWARD, OR AMENABILITY TO, REHABILITATION;     

15 (D) THE IMPACT OF THE OFFENSE UPON ANY VICTIM OR VICTIM'S  
16 IMMEDIATE FAMILY; AND

17 (E) ANY OTHER FACTORS THAT THE COURT DEEMS RELEVANT TO  
18 ITS DECISION, SO LONG AS THE COURT IDENTIFIES SUCH FACTORS ON THE  
19 RECORD.

20 (III) IF A PERSON IS SENTENCED TO A DETERMINATE RANGE OF  
21 THIRTY TO FIFTY YEARS IN PRISON PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (c), THE  
22 COURT SHALL IMPOSE A MANDATORY PERIOD OF TEN YEARS PAROLE.

23 (IV) IF A PERSON IS SENTENCED TO A TERM OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT  
24 WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE AFTER SERVING FORTY YEARS, LESS ANY  
25 EARNED TIME GRANTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17-22.5-405, C.R.S.,  
26 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE STATE BOARD OF PAROLE RELEASES THE  
27 PERSON ON PAROLE, THE PERSON SHALL REMAIN IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY

1 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS OR HER  
2 LIFE AND SHALL NOT BE DISCHARGED.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-22.5-104, **amend**  
4 (2) (d) (IV); and **add** (2) (d) (V) as follows:

5 **17-22.5-104. Parole - regulations.** (2) (d) (IV) Notwithstanding  
6 the provisions of subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (d), an inmate  
7 imprisoned under a life sentence for a class 1 felony committed BEFORE  
8 JULY 1, 1990, OR on or after July 1, 2006, who was convicted as an adult  
9 following direct filing of an information or indictment in the district court  
10 pursuant to section 19-2-517, C.R.S., or transfer of proceedings to the  
11 district court pursuant to section 19-2-518, C.R.S., may be eligible for  
12 parole after the inmate has served at least forty ~~calendar~~ years, LESS ANY  
13 EARNED TIME GRANTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17-22.5-405. An  
14 application for parole ~~shall~~ MAY not be made or considered during ~~the~~  
15 THIS period. ~~of forty calendar years.~~

16 (V) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF  
17 THIS PARAGRAPH (d), AN INMATE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR  
18 A CLASS 1 FELONY COMMITTED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1990, AND BEFORE  
19 JULY 1, 2006, WHO WAS CONVICTED AS AN ADULT FOLLOWING DIRECT  
20 FILING OF AN INFORMATION OR INDICTMENT IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
21 PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-2-517, C.R.S., OR TRANSFER OF PROCEEDINGS  
22 TO THE DISTRICT COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-2-518, C.R.S., OR  
23 PURSUANT TO EITHER OF THESE SECTIONS AS THEY EXISTED PRIOR TO  
24 THEIR REPEAL AND REENACTMENT, WITH AMENDMENTS, BY HOUSE BILL  
25 96-1005, MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE AFTER SERVING FORTY YEARS,  
26 LESS ANY EARNED TIME GRANTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17-22.5-405.

27 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-22.5-403, **add** (2)

1 (c) as follows:

2 **17-22.5-403. Parole eligibility - repeal.** (2) (c) (I) A PERSON  
3 CONVICTED AND SENTENCED AS AN ADULT FOR A CLASS 1 FELONY  
4 COMMITTED WHILE THE PERSON WAS A JUVENILE ON OR AFTER JULY 1,  
5 1990, AND BEFORE JULY 1, 2006, AND SENTENCED TO A DETERMINATE  
6 SENTENCE WITHIN THE RANGE OF THIRTY TO FIFTY YEARS PURSUANT TO  
7 SECTION 18-1.3-401 (4) (c), C.R.S., IS ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE AFTER HE OR  
8 SHE HAS SERVED SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF HIS OR HER SENTENCE, LESS  
9 ANY EARNED TIME GRANTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 17-22.5-405.

10 (II) (A) THE STATE BOARD OF PAROLE MAY CONDUCT PAROLE  
11 HEARINGS FOR PERSONS DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS  
12 PARAGRAPH (c) BEGINNING ONE YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
13 PARAGRAPH (c).

14 (B) THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE ONE YEAR  
15 AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PARAGRAPH (c).

16 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 17-22.5-405, amend  
17 (4); and add (1.2) as follows:

18 **17-22.5-405. Earned time - earned release time - achievement**  
19 **earned time.** (1.2) SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A  
20 PERSON WHO WAS CONVICTED AS AN ADULT FOR A CLASS 1 FELONY  
21 COMMITTED WHILE THE PERSON WAS A JUVENILE AND WHO WAS  
22 SENTENCED PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-401 (4) (b) OR (4) (c), C.R.S.  
23 AS TO A PERSON WHO WAS CONVICTED AS AN ADULT FOR A CLASS 1  
24 FELONY COMMITTED WHILE THE PERSON WAS A JUVENILE AND WHO WAS  
25 SENTENCED PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-1.3-401 (4) (c), C.R.S., IT IS THE  
26 INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT AWARD  
27 EARNED TIME TO SUCH A PERSON BOTH PROACTIVELY AND

1 RETROACTIVELY FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (1.2), AS  
2 IF THE PERSON HAD BEEN ELIGIBLE TO BE AWARDED EARNED TIME FROM  
3 THE BEGINNING OF HIS OR HER INCARCERATION PURSUANT TO THE  
4 SENTENCE THAT HE OR SHE ORIGINALLY RECEIVED FOR SUCH FELONY.

5 (4) (a) EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6) OR (9) OF THIS  
6 SECTION OR IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (4), AND  
7 notwithstanding any other provision of this section, earned time may not  
8 reduce the sentence of an inmate as defined in section 17-22.5-402 (1) by  
9 a period of time that is more than thirty percent of the sentence. This  
10 subsection (4) shall not apply to subsection (6) or subsection (9) of this  
11 section.

12 (b) EARNED TIME MAY NOT REDUCE THE SENTENCE OF AN INMATE  
13 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1.2) OF THIS SECTION BY A PERIOD OF TIME  
14 THAT IS MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE SENTENCE.

15 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 10 to article  
16 13 of title 16 as follows:

17 PART 10

18 RESENTENCING HEARINGS FOR JUVENILE

19 OFFENDERS SERVING LIFE SENTENCES

20 **16-13-1001. Legislative declaration.** (1) THE GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

22 (a) (I) IN THE 2012 CASE OF *MILLER V. ALABAMA*, THE UNITED  
23 STATES SUPREME COURT HELD THAT IMPOSING A MANDATORY LIFE  
24 SENTENCE WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE ON A JUVENILE IS A  
25 CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT PROHIBITED BY THE EIGHTH  
26 AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION; AND

27 (II) THE COURT FURTHER HELD THAT CHILDREN ARE

1 CONSTITUTIONALLY DIFFERENT THAN ADULTS FOR PURPOSES OF  
2 SENTENCING; AND

3 (b) (I) IN THE 2016 CASE OF *MONTGOMERY V. LOUISIANA*, THE  
4 COURT HELD THAT *MILLER V. ALABAMA* ANNOUNCED A SUBSTANTIVE RULE  
5 OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW THAT APPLIES RETROACTIVELY; AND

6 (II) IN LIGHT OF THE COURT'S HOLDING THAT CHILDREN ARE  
7 CONSTITUTIONALLY DIFFERENT THAN ADULTS IN THEIR LEVEL OF  
8 CULPABILITY, THE COURT FURTHER HELD THAT PRISONERS SERVING LIFE  
9 SENTENCES FOR CRIMES THAT THEY COMMITTED AS JUVENILES MUST BE  
10 GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THAT THEIR CRIMES DID NOT REFLECT  
11 IRREPARABLE CORRUPTION AND, IF THEY DID NOT, THEN THEIR HOPE FOR  
12 SOME YEARS OF LIFE OUTSIDE PRISON WALLS MUST BE RESTORED; AND

13 (III) THE COURT MADE IT CLEAR THAT A SENTENCE TO A LIFETIME  
14 IN PRISON IS AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL SENTENCE FOR ALL BUT THE RAREST  
15 OF CHILDREN.

16 (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT:

17 (a) A JUVENILE SENTENCED IN COLORADO FOR A CONVICTION OF  
18 A CLASS 1 FELONY AS A RESULT OF A DIRECT FILE OR TRANSFER OF AN  
19 OFFENSE COMMITTED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1990, AND BEFORE JULY 1,  
20 2006, WAS SENTENCED TO A MANDATORY LIFE SENTENCE WITHOUT THE  
21 POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE; AND

22 (b) APPROXIMATELY FIFTY PERSONS IN COLORADO RECEIVED SUCH  
23 AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL SENTENCE.

24 (3) NOW, THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY DECLARES  
25 THAT THIS PART 10 IS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE PERSONS SERVING SUCH  
26 UNCONSTITUTIONAL SENTENCES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESENTENCING.

27 **16-13-1002. Resentencing hearing for persons serving life**



1 **sentences without the possibility of parole as the result of a direct file**  
2 **or transfer. (1) A PERSON MAY PETITION THE SENTENCING COURT FOR A**  
3 **RESENTENCING HEARING IF HE OR SHE WAS:**

- 4 (a) A JUVENILE AT THE TIME OF HIS OR HER OFFENSE;
- 5 (b) CONVICTED AS AN ADULT OF A CLASS 1 FELONY FOLLOWING  
6 DIRECT FILING OF AN INFORMATION OR INDICTMENT IN THE DISTRICT  
7 COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-2-517, C.R.S., OR TRANSFER OF  
8 PROCEEDINGS TO THE DISTRICT COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION 19-2-518,  
9 C.R.S..OR PURSUANT TO EITHER OF THESE SECTIONS AS THEY EXISTED  
10 PRIOR TO THEIR REPEAL AND REENACTMENT, WITH AMENDMENTS, BY  
11 HOUSE BILL 96-1005; AND

12 (c) SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY  
13 OF PAROLE FOR AN OFFENSE COMMITTED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1990, AND  
14 BEFORE JULY 1, 2006.

15 (2) IF A PETITION IS FILED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS  
16 SECTION, THE SENTENCING COURT SHALL CONDUCT A RESENTENCING  
17 HEARING AND RESENTENCE THE OFFENDER AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION  
18 18-1.3-401 (4) (c), C.R.S.

19 (3) THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 17-22.5-403 (2) (c) AND  
20 17-22.5-405 (1.2), C.R.S., TAKE EFFECT UPON RESENTENCING.

21 (4) A PETITION FILED UNDER THIS SECTION IS NOT A MOTION UNDER  
22 RULE 35 (c) OF THE COLORADO RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

23 **SECTION 6. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.1-302, amend**  
24 **(2) (h) as follows:**

25 **24-4.1-302. Definitions. As used in this part 3, and for no other**  
26 **purpose, including the expansion of the rights of any defendant:**

27 **(2) "Critical stages" means the following stages of the criminal**

1 justice process:

2 (h) Any sentencing OR RESENTENCING hearing:

3 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.1-302.5, **amend**

4 (1) (d) (IV) as follows:

5 **24-4.1-302.5. Rights afforded to victims.** (1) In order to  
6 preserve and protect a victim's rights to justice and due process, each  
7 victim of a crime shall have the following rights:

8 (d) The right to be heard at any court proceeding:

9 (IV) At which a person accused or convicted of a crime against  
10 the victim is sentenced OR RESENTENCED:

11 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-4.1-303, **amend**

12 (12) (c) as follows:

13 **24-4.1-303. Procedures for ensuring rights of victims of**  
14 **crimes.** (12) Unless a victim requests otherwise, the district attorney  
15 shall inform each victim of the following:

16 (c) The date, time, and location of any sentencing OR  
17 RESENTENCING hearing:

18 **SECTION 9. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
19 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
20 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.