



## **AB 15 – Early Release Transparency Act of 2023**

### **Background**

AB 15 will provide more transparency as it relates to early release credits for incarcerated adults.

Proposition 57 of 2016 gave the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation the power to grant additional credit, above and beyond these statutory limits “for good behavior and approved rehabilitative or educational achievements.”

With this power, they passed regulations this year that significantly expanded early release credit earning for those incarcerated in California.

### **Problem Being Addressed**

Unfortunately, how these credits are calculated is fairly opaque.

For example, CBS News Sacramento was hoping to understand how a defendant in a gang-related multiple homicide case in Sacramento was able to be released from a 10-year sentence after serving roughly four years.

CDCR denied the news station’s attempt at a public records request due to confidentiality of credit-earning information.

AB 15 addresses this issue of transparency by amending the Public Records Act to provide that the calculation of a prison inmate’s release date, and a summary of how the inmate

earned any release credits, is not confidential and is a public record subject to disclosure.

It is important that Californians are privy to how CDCR is using its discretion under Prop 57. When an inmate serves a fraction of the sentence imposed by the judge, the public is entitled to know why that is the case.

### **Which code section is affected?**

This bill will add a new section to the Government Code.

### **Summary**

AB 15 would provide that Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation records pertaining to an inmate’s release date and their early release credits are public records and are subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act. This bill places important transparencies in law that will help Californians feel more secure in their communities.

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### **Supporters**

*Pending*