



News From State Representative Dennis Reboletti

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Reboletti Bill Eliminates Good Time Credit Prison Program

Springfield, IL ... After an investigation into Governor Quinn's controversial meritorious good time credit program which let violent offenders out of prison early, a House committee passed legislation filed by State Representative Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst) that eliminates prison officials from awarding credit served to inmates.

"It's a matter of public safety. Victims assume that when their offender is sentenced to five years behind bars, that they will in fact serve the majority of that time. However, last fall the Department of Corrections secretly changed the policy that required inmates to stay in prison for at least 61 days. Instead, inmates were given as much as six months time off for good conduct and were often released after serving less than three weeks of their sentence," said Reboletti, a former prosecutor.

During Thursday's Judiciary II Criminal Law Committee, Reboletti passed House Bill 5019 that would eliminate prison officials from awarding credit to prisoners. The bill does allow prisoners to earn credit for good conduct and for participating in education and substance-abuse treatment programs.

"I support good time credit if the prisoner does something to deserve it. I do not support it when all they have done is report to prison," he said.

The meritorious good time credit, known as the MGT Push, made some inmates eligible for release after only serving 11 days. Many of the parolees were back in prison serving sentences for new crimes including domestic battery, aggravated drunken driving, theft and drug charges.

For example, Joshua Paddock, 21, was paroled Nov. 6 after serving time for aggravated battery. He was arrested Nov. 19 for a traffic violation and again on Dec. 17 and charged with four counts of domestic battery after Paddock allegedly stripped, kicked, choked and

dragged the victim across pavement and back into a hotel room for more than four hours, according to corrections documents.

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