5 WAYS TO EARN CREDIT UNDER PROP 57

Here are all of the ways a person in California state prisons can earn time off of their sentence under Prop 57. Everyone in prison is eligible for these credits (yes - even those with 'violent' offenses!), except people serving Life Without Parole or who are on Death Row.

1. GOOD TIME CREDITS

Good Time Credits are credits awarded for being disciplinary-free. On May 1, 2017, Good Time Credits changed in the following ways:
- 100%-66.7% changed to 66.7% for all Second & Third Strikers with nonviolent offenses
- 85% changed to 80% for people with violent offenses and Lifers
- 85% changed to 50% for people with violent offenses in fire camp
- 66.7%-33.3% changed to 33.3% for minimum custody and people with nonviolent offenses in fire camp

2. MILESTONES

On August 1, 2017, everyone in prison (except people serving Life Without Parole or on Death Row) became eligible to earn up to 12 weeks off of their sentence per year by completing programs that qualify as "Milestones". Anything earned over 12 weeks is rolled over to the next year. The schedule of Milestone programs can be found on the CDCR website: http://www.cdc.ca.gov/proposition57/

3. REHABILITATIVE ACHIEVEMENT CREDITS

Also effective August 1, 2017, all people in CA prisons (except LWOP and death row) can earn up to 4 weeks off of their sentence per year for participation in self-help groups such as substance abuse programs, anger management, and approved Inmate Leisure Time Activity Groups (ILTAGs). People earn 1 week off per 52 hours of group participation, up to 208 hours (4 weeks).

4. EDUCATIONAL MERIT CREDITS

The completion of a GED (or other High School Equivalency) while in state prison will earn 3 months off a person's sentence, and completion of an Associate's Degree, Bachelor's Degree, or Offender Mentor Certification will earn 6 months off. These are the only credits applied retroactively, meaning that a person will get these credits even if they completed the degree before Prop 57 passed.

5. EXTRAORDINARY CONDUCT CREDITS

Additionally, people in California state prisons can earn up to 12 months off their sentence for performing a "heroic act in a life-threatening situation, or have provided exceptional assistance in maintaining the safety and security of a prison". This credit must be approved by the Director of the Division of Adult Institutions.