

30:4-91.3b

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
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(Prison furlough)

NJSA: 30:4-91.3b

LAWS OF: 1993 CHAPTER: 153

BILL NO: A304

SPONSOR(S) Roma and Heck

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Judiciary  
SENATE: Judiciary

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: October 29, 1992  
SENATE: May 13, 1993

DATE OF APPROVAL: June 28, 1993

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes  
SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

See newspaper clippings--attached:

"Law bans furloughs for some inmates," 6-29-93, Trenton Times.

"Law enacted banning furloughs...", 6-29-93, Star Ledger.

"Furloughs to end for violent criminals," 6-29-93, Asbury Park Press.

[over]

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JUL 1 1993  
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY COPY

For background see:

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Senate. Institutions, Health & Welfare,  
P959 Committee.  
1976c Improving the inmate furlough program: a report to the  
Legislature. April 1, 1976.

974.90 New Jersey. Furlough Study Committee.  
P959 New Jersey furlough program: a review. 1976.  
1976

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Senate. Institutions, Health & Welfare,  
P959 Committee.  
1976a Public hearing, held 2-4-76. Trenton, 1976.

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Senate. Institutions.  
P959 Public meeting, held 4-17-75 & 4-25-75. Trenton, 1975.  
1975

KBG:pp

P.L.1993, CHAPTER 153, approved June 28, 1993  
1992 Assembly No. 304

1 AN ACT concerning prisoner furloughs and supplementing chapter  
2 4 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the  
5 State of New Jersey:

6 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3 of P.L.1969,  
7 c.22 (C.30:4-91.3), the Commissioner of Corrections shall not  
8 authorize the participation of a prisoner in any furlough program  
9 administered by the Department of Corrections if that prisoner  
10 has been convicted of a crime pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-3,  
11 N.J.S.2C:11-4, N.J.S.2C:14-2, N.J.S.2C:15-1, N.J.S.2C:13-1, or  
12 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:12-1.

13 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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17  
18 Prohibits furloughs for prisoners convicted of certain violent  
19 crimes.

ASSEMBLY, No. 304  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1992 SESSION

By Assemblyman ROMA and Assemblywoman HECK

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11   N.J.S.2C:11-4, N.J.S.2C:14-2, N.J.S.2C:15-1, N.J.S.2C:13-1, or  
12   subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:12-1.

13       2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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18       This bill prohibits the Commissioner of Corrections from  
19   granting a furlough to any prisoner who has been convicted of  
20   murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, kidnapping or aggravated  
21   assault.

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26       Prohibits furloughs for prisoners convicted of certain violent  
27   crimes.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 304

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 6, 1992

The Assembly Judiciary, Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 304.

This bill prohibits the Commissioner of Corrections from granting a furlough to any prisoner who has been convicted of murder, manslaughter, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping or aggravated assault.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1992 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 304

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 6, 1993

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 304.

This bill provides that inmates who have been convicted of murder, manslaughter, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping or aggravated assault would be ineligible for participation in any furlough program administered by the Department of Corrections.

974:901  
661



# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

**CN-001**  
**Contact:**

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**TRENTON, N.J. 08625**

**Release:** Monday  
June 28, 1993

## **GOVERNOR STIFFENS RULES ON PRISONER FURLOUGHS**

**HACKENSACK** – Governor Jim Florio today signed a law prohibiting furloughs for inmates serving time for violent crimes, in order to make sure prison policies are in line with the need to protect victims and see to it that offenders are not placed in situations where they can commit more crimes.

"This law makes our tough standards even tougher. From now on, when it comes to violent criminals, there will no weekends off, no days off and no exceptions," said Governor Florio, who signed the bill at the Bergen County Jail Annex. "When juries convict violent criminals, they expect them to do jail time. We're here to see that their wishes are carried out."

"The victims of crime don't get time to be relieved of the burden of their grief and pain. They have to live with the consequences of crime every day and so should the people who commit the crimes," he said.

The new law prohibits the granting of a furlough to any prisoner who has been convicted of murder, manslaughter, sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping or aggravated assault. The current furlough system, which is administered by the Department of Corrections, was created in 1971 as a method of facilitating an inmate's re-entry into society within restricted guidelines. However, despite the goal of easing a prisoner's transition back to society, in reality, many inmates are granted furloughs who are denied parole, which does not serve the original intent of the program.

Under the previous program, with the exception of arsonists and sex offenders, prisoners who are within four months of a parole eligibility date, and have no prior convictions for assault or injury, can be eligible for escorted or unescorted furloughs (depending on crime and length of sentence) for up to 72 hours within the state. Eligibility is also dependent on prison behavior. Inmates serving time for murder are currently permitted 12-hour escorted furloughs which are banned under the new law.

"This bill restores some common sense to our criminal justice system. It shifts the focus back where it ought to be -- on the rights of victims, not criminals. Most

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important, it makes New Jersey safer. On behalf of crime victims and law-abiding people of our state, it is my pleasure to sign this bill into law," said Governor Florio

Under Governor Florio's leadership, New Jersey has stepped up its efforts to fight crime, including tough measures against stalking, strengthening the death penalty and extending it to drug kingpins, a comprehensive domestic violence prevention law and a community policing program that allows neighbors to work hand-in-hand with local police to protect their streets and homes.

Governor Florio has also toughened up the state's previously lax policy on clemency by the commitment to publicly disclose any clemencies or pardons he issues. The Governor has been an outspoken advocate on behalf of crime victims' rights by:

- Signing legislation to allow crime victims or their relatives to testify before parole hearings in July, 1992.
- Helping to lead the fight to get a proposed crime victims' rights constitutional amendment on the November 1991 ballot which mandated that crime victims and their families be treated with fairness and compassion, and should have an opportunity to attend judicial proceedings. The amendment was overwhelmingly approved by voters.
- Signed legislation in December, 1991, mandating courts to require most criminals to pay restitution to the victims of their crimes.

The new law, A 304 was sponsored by Assemblypersons Patrick Roma and Rose Marie Heck.

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