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**Cookie Crews**  
COMMISSIONER

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: Legislative Research Commission**  
**From: Cookie Crews, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Corrections**  
**Date: January 26, 2026**  
**RE: 24 RS HB 6 – Parole of Infirm Inmates**

House Bill 6 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly continues the program for parole for infirm inmates. The Department of Corrections is required to submit a report on the administration of this program. As described below, the program criteria are restrictive and significantly limit eligibility. Under the program, the Parole Board shall grant parole when an inmate meets the criteria for Parole for Infirm Inmates as established in the legislation.

To be eligible, the inmate must be physically or mentally debilitated, incapacitated, or infirm due to advanced age, chronic illness, disease, or any other qualifying criteria that constitutes an infirm prisoner. The inmate must be substantially dependent on others for the activities of daily living. The inmate would be considered a low risk in terms of a threat to the public if released.

The inmate must not be convicted of a sex crime or capital offense. If the inmate has not yet reached his/her parole eligibility date, he or she must have served at least one-half of his or her sentence.

Under Parole for Infirm Inmates, the individual shall be paroled to a licensed long-term care facility, nursing home, or family placement within the Commonwealth. In addition, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services is directed to provide all needed support and assistance, as well as to seek out federal funds-including Medicaid for long-term-care services as prescribed in HB 6.

In FY 2025, there were zero (0) inmates released under 24 RS HB 6 Parole for Infirm Inmates.

This program is in addition to KRS 439.3405 which provides the Parole Board with the authority to release inmates to Medical Parole who suffer from terminal medical conditions likely to cause death within one (1) year or who are substantially dependent on others for the activities of daily living due to a medical condition. Examples include severe chronic lung disease, end-stage heart disease, severe neuro-muscular disease such as multiple sclerosis; severely limited mobility due to a stroke, disease, or trauma; or dependent on external life support systems.

Below are the infirm offenders paroled, residential facilities used, and estimated savings from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025:

| Infirm Parolee Released | Residential Facility Used | Estimated Savings |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| None                    | None                      | \$0               |