



1. How is parole different from the current options of good time and the Supervised Community Confinement Program (SCCP)?

Each of these programs allow different levels of sentence reduction, depending upon date of sentencing, crime type, and length of sentence.

A) Good Time: Good time offers marginal reductions (set number of days) in a person's sentence in reward for good behavior. Everyone earns "[Good Time](#)." Only case plan compliance is required to be eligible for one of the four good time codes.

- Sentenced 1983 -1995: up to 13 days/month
- Sentenced 1995 -2003: up to 5 days/month
- Sentenced 2004 -2020: up to 9 days/month
- Sentenced [2021-present](#): up to 11 days/month.

Note: there are a number of crime-type carve-outs where people are still sentenced under the 1995 code today and thus only earn 5 days/month.

For all but the 1995 good time code, there is an additional 2-days per month someone can earn within the final 18 months of their sentence, once they are classified as community status and enrolled into a community-based program (i.e., work release, certain treatment programs, or certain jobs at a minimum security facility).

B) Supervised Community Confinement Program (SCCP): SCCP is a program in which incarcerated individuals can be evaluated against a criteria created by the Maine Department of Corrections. If they meet this criteria, **an incarcerated individual may apply to serve the final 24-30 months of their unsuspended sentence in a residential setting. Even those individuals who meet the criteria are generally allowed to serve the remainder of their sentence in a residential setting for much less than the 24-30 months outlined in the SCCP.**

C) Parole: Parole does not currently exist as an option in Maine. Under [LD178](#), parole would serve as an incentivized, structured, supportive mechanism through which an **incarcerated person, after serving a full 1/3 of their unsuspended sentence, may apply to go before a panel of professionals from diverse fields of expertise** (appointed by the Governor pending majority approval by Judiciary Committee) who would determine whether it would be in the interest of public safety to allow the individual to serve the remaining unsuspended portion of their sentence in a residential setting.

2. Since we have Good Time and SCCP, why do we still need parole?

Parole gives rehabilitated people an earlier chance to transition to community supervision, increasing incentives for personal improvement. Good Time is accrued automatically and to our knowledge, all 34 states that currently have parole also have good time credits. The two are not mutually exclusive. Maine's Supervised Community Confinement Program (SCCP) is only available at the very end of a person's sentence.

Parole is designed to apply to all incarcerated people who are **no longer a threat to society** and transition people to a residential setting at the moment of readiness, **rather than unnecessary and costly further incarceration.** Parole will be most impactful to those with long sentences who have a great deal to give back to their communities.

Ex: A person with a 40-year sentence can apply for SCCP after 37.5 years. LD 178 would allow a person with a 40-year sentence to apply for parole (eligibility, not automatic release) after 13.3 years, 1/3 of their sentence.

Supervised Community Confinement Program (SCCP): Under the purview of MDOC. Its implementation can change with leadership and culture changes, and it is not a program that incentivizes changed behavior from the beginning of someone's incarceration unless they are doing very short sentences.

Parole: Would be under the purview of a Parole Board of experts in relevant fields and will reflect the diverse demographics of the incarcerated population. Parole provides an incentivized, supported pathway to reentry based on an evaluation of rehabilitation and risk, ensuring that those who no longer need to be incarcerated can safely return to their community to finish out their sentences. It is a safer option than straight release.

The MDOC uses an evidence-based approach to nearly every aspect of incarceration. **Parole is an evidence-based approach** to transitioning people into society when it no longer serves society to continue to house them in such an extreme environment.

Evidence that the DOC gathers around programming participation, attitude change, mental health and substance use treatment, etc. will all play a role in **determining whether the evidence is in a community's favor** to have an incarcerated person transition onto parole.