

Department of Corrections

Office of the Commissioner

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April 4, 2013

The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Co-chair The Honorable Alan Austerman, Co-Chair House Finance Committee State Capitol, Rm 519 Juneau, Alaska 99824

Dear Representatives Stoltze and Austerman:

At the April 3, 2013 hearing on SB 22, Representative Gara asked a question about how good time is applied to inmate sentences. Good time is time that can be deducted from a person's sentence if they follow the rules of the correctional facility where they are housed. Good time is fluid and based on many different factors which can have a pronounced effect on a person's sentence.

Anyone sentenced to a term of imprisonment that exceeds three days is eligible for a good time reduction of 33%. While this applies to most sentences, there are instances which will not allow for the application of good time. Good time may not be applied to:

- Anyone sentenced to a 99-year term of imprisonment under AS 12.55.125(a); or to a definite term of imprisonment under AS 12.55.125(l);
- Anyone convicted of a sex offense and who has been previously convicted of a sexual felony in this or any other jurisdiction;
- Anyone who is sentenced on or after July 15, 2004, and has previously served time that was not in a correctional facility does not get credit for the time previously served;
- Anyone incarcerated for contempt or for failure to pay a court-ordered fine or restitution;
- Anyone serving time in a treatment program, private residence, or under electronic monitoring.

Additionally, good time may be taken when a person violates the rules of the institution where they are incarcerated. The reduction in good time for punitive reasons typically does not amount to all of the good time that the person would have been eligible for and depends upon the nature

of the rule violation. A person may have their good time restored if they do not receive further infractions for a specified period of time.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely, Joseph Schmidt

Commissioner