

## NEW ENGLAND STATES GOOD TIME GUIDELINES 3/19/09

A survey was conducted regarding the application of good time and/or earned credits in the New England states' correctional systems.

Each surveyed state's correctional agency responded as follows:

1. **Maine Department of Correction.** An inmate may earn up to 3 days per month if participating in work, educational or rehabilitative programming and up to 4 days per month for good behavior. An inmate may earn an additional 2 days on top of that if assigned to a community work, educational or rehabilitative program. Total of 9 days per month possible.

Reference: Policy 11.5, Prisoner Records

2. **Massachusetts Department of Correction.** An inmate may earn good time for satisfactory performance related to a work assignment, educational or vocational program, or other program or activity as approved by the Associate Commissioner of Re-entry and Reintegration.
  - A. **Work Assignments.** Deductions totaling not more than 2.5 days per month may be granted to an inmate who is involved in one or more approved work assignment(s).
  - B. **Educational or Vocational Programs.** Deductions totaling not more than 2.5 days per month may be granted to an inmate who is involved in one or more approved educational or vocational program(s).
  - C. **Activities.** Deductions totaling not more than 2.5 days per month may be granted to an inmate who is involved in one or more approved activities as approved by the Associate Commissioner of Re-entry and Reintegration.

Reference: 103 CMR 411.00, Deduction from Sentence

3. **New Hampshire Department of Corrections.** An inmate may petition the court for a sentence modification or suspension. New Hampshire does not award Good Time to inmates.

Reference: Directive 1.48, Petition for a Recommendation to Modify or Suspend Sentence

4. **Rhode Island Department of Corrections.** An inmate may accumulate earned time for:
  - A. **Good Behavior.** Non-sex offenders sentenced to serve more than 30 days can earn 10 days per month. Sex offenders serving more than six months can earn the number of days per month as there are years in their sentence up to a maximum of 10 days per month (i.e., sex offender serving 5 years can earn 5 days per month. Sex offender serving 7 years can earn 7 days per month. Sex offender serving 15 years earns the maximum - 10 days per month.) Anyone serving life or life without parole for any offense is not eligible to earn good behavior credits.
  - B. **Program Participation.** Non-sex offenders can earn up to 5 days per month for participation in rehabilitative programs. They can earn up to 30 days credit for completion of a program. Sex offenders can earn up to 3 days per month for participation in rehabilitative programs up to a maximum of 36 days per year. They are not eligible to earn credits for completion of a program. Those persons serving life or

life without parole are not eligible to earn any program participation and completion credits.

- C. Meritorious Service. Any offender sentenced to imprisonment for one year or more in the adult correctional institutions, shall be eligible to have deducted from his or her sentence up to three (3) days per month up to a maximum of thirty-six (36) days per year, when in the determination of the director or designee, an offender has performed heroic acts affecting the lives and welfare of the institutional personnel, inmates, or the general public, or when an inmate has submitted extraordinary and useful ideas and plans which have been implemented for the benefit of the state resulting in substantial savings and/or a higher degree of efficiency or performance while participating in and completing academic or vocational programs which have been implemented at the adult correctional institutions.

Reference: General Law 1956, Section 42-56-24, Earned Time for Good Behavior or Program Participation or Completion; and, General Law 1956, Section 42-56-26, Additional Time Allowed for Meritorious Service

5. Vermont Department of Corrections. An offender may be awarded a reduction of incarceration for:

- A. Faithful observation of all the rules and regulations of the institution to which the offender is committed;
- B. Participation in treatment, educational or vocational training, programs, or work identified by the department; or'
- C. Participation in a work camp program.

There is an "Automatic Reduction of Term" of 5 days per month. The Automatic Reduction of Term is deducted off the maximum release date. There is also an "Earned Reduction of Term" in which an offender may earn up to 10 days of Earned Reduction of Term per month off of their maximum release dates for the following:

- 1. Up to 5 of the 10 days per month may be earned by satisfactory and consistent program performance as required by the offender's case plan; and,
- 2. Up to 5 of the 10 days per month may be earned by satisfactory and consistent work performance.

Reference: Directive 371.19, Reduction of Term for Good Behavior