

**Article - Correctional Services**

7-205.

(a) The Commission has the exclusive power to:

(1) authorize the parole of an individual sentenced under the laws of the State to any correctional facility in the State;

(2) negotiate, enter into, and sign predetermined parole release agreements as provided under subsection (b) of this section;

(3) hear cases for parole in which:

(i) the Commissioner of Correction, after reviewing the recommendation of the appropriate managing official, objects to a parole;

(ii) the inmate was convicted of a homicide; [or]

(iii) the inmate is serving a sentence of life imprisonment; OR

(IV) THE PAROLE HEARING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNDER § 7-304 OF THIS TITLE;

(4) hear exceptions to recommendations of a hearing examiner or a commissioner acting as a hearing examiner;

(5) review summarily all recommendations of a hearing examiner or a commissioner acting as a hearing examiner to which an exception has not been filed;

(6) hear a case for parole in absentia when an individual who was sentenced in this State to serve a term of imprisonment is in a correctional facility of a jurisdiction other than this State;

(7) hear cases of parole revocation; and

(8) if delegated by the Governor, hear cases involving an alleged violation of a conditional pardon.

7-304.

(a) A parole hearing [before the Commission or a hearing examiner] shall be open to the public if:

(1) (i) a victim, as defined in § 7-801 of this title, makes a written request [for notification under § 7-801(b)(1)(ii) of this title] TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR NOTIFICATION AND MAINTAINS A CURRENT ADDRESS ON FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT; or

(ii) a victim or a victim's representative files a notification request form under § 11-104 of the Criminal Procedure Article; and

(2) within a reasonable amount of time before a scheduled hearing, the victim makes a written request that the hearing be open to the public.