

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=41950>

Gov. Heineman Calls for Change to "Good Time" Rules

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman is renewing his call to eliminate automatic "good time" credit for violent prisoners.

Heineman argued Wednesday that lawmakers should have passed a bill introduced at his request in response to the Nikko Jenkins case. Jenkins killed four people in Omaha last year shortly after he was released, despite violent behavior and signs of mental illness.

Current law allows inmates to receive one day of "good time" credit on their sentences for each day they spend in prison. The bill would have required inmates to participate in treatment programs to qualify.

It faced scrutiny and stalled in the Legislature's Judiciary Committee. Some committee members described the bill as an illusion because many prison treatment programs long waiting lists. Prisoners could still earn credit while waiting.

Associated Press