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(Wyo.)-State Lawmakers To Consider Juvenile Life Sentences Bill



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 01/10/2013 09:57 AM

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - Wyoming lawmakers are set to consider a bill that would end mandatory life sentences for juvenile killers.

Authorities say changing Wyoming law is necessary because of a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The high court last year threw out mandatory life in prison without parole for juvenile offenders.

The House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to consider a bill Thursday that would make Wyoming juveniles convicted of first-degree murder eligible for parole after serving 25 years.

The U.S. Supreme Court last year vacated a life sentence imposed on Wyatt Bear Cloud. He was one of three teens sentenced to life in the 2009 home invasion killing of Sheridan businessman Robert Ernst.

Bear Cloud and another defendant in the case have asked the Wyoming Supreme Court to overturn their life sentences.