Prop 207 frees Phoenix man after serving 28 years of life sentence

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A Phoenix man who has been serving a life sentence since 1995 for convictions on multiple marijuana offenses has been released on parole.

Prop 207, the ballot initiative passed in 2000 that decriminalized marijuana possession, went into effect in Arizona in 2011, freeing more than 20,000 people who had prior marijuana convictions.

The state Department of Corrections released the man to Phoenix House, a halfway house program run by Arizona Community Foundation, on Jan. 4.

The name of the Phoenix man is withheld.

The Department of Corrections said prop 207 applies to convictions before the law was passed.

Prop 207 specifies that if a person has been convicted of the offense less than 25 years ago, the person’s record is generally eligible for expungement.

The man had been on parole since 2021, according to the agency.

The name of the Phoenix man is withheld.

In Arizona, the law allows for the name and details of a person to be released if they are serving a life sentence for a crime that was committed before prop 207 was passed.

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