

Life for Sex Offenders Approved by Assembly

SACRAMENTO, June 13 (AP)—A bill to permit sex offenders to be locked up for life—with the choice of a surgical operation and freedom—was passed by the State Assembly today, 63 to 2.

The measure sent to the Senate provides that any man convicted of lewd conduct with a

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child under 14 may choose to undergo surgery instead of prison.

This section was written in by Assembly Speaker Sam L. Collins (R) Fullerton, after the recent brutal slaying of 10-year-old Patricia Jean Hull in Orange County.

Jail for Life

The bill also makes possible the jailing for life of persons convicted of certain other sex crimes.

By removing the maximum limit, said Assemblyman H. Allen Smith (R) Glendale, the bill's author, it is hoped to protect society by keeping an offender in prison, if necessary, "for the rest of his natural life."

Assemblyman Marvin Sherwin (R) Piedmont, objected to making it a crime to molest anyone under 18—instead of 14 as the law now provides. Sherwin said it would be possible to send a 17-year-old girl "in an ordinary petting party situation" to San Quentin.

The other no vote came from Assemblyman Bernard R. Brady (D) San Francisco, who argued not enough is known about the surgical operation involved.

Assemblyman Thomas J. Doyle (D) Los Angeles, expressed the opinion the bill should be even stronger—so repeaters could be sent to the gas chamber.