

Department of Planning and Budget

2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB 1135

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Petersen

3. Committee Reported from Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title Reasons for denial of parole

5. Summary/Purpose:

Currently, the Parole Board has a standard list of 15 reasons it uses for explaining why parole was not granted for an inmate. If parole is denied after the board's periodic review of an inmate for parole, the inmate is informed of the board's decision and one or more of those items from that list is provided as the reason for the denial. The proposed legislation would require the board to go beyond the list of standard reasons and provide "fact-specific individualized reasons" for the denial of parole.

6. Fiscal Impact: Indeterminate. See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: None.

8. Fiscal implications:

The Parole Board makes between 300 and 600 parole decisions per month. The board has a small support staff and the board members use an automated information system to process their monthly parole decisions. The information system, developed and supported by the Department of Corrections (DOC), would need to be revised in order to provide the information required by the proposed legislation for each inmate denied parole.

DOC is currently developing a new integrated automated system to manage inmate information (CORIS). The community corrections phase of CORIS is now underway and the first module was implemented last October. One module of the community corrections phase will include the Parole Board. That module is under development and is expected to be ready for use by late summer 2009.

The specifications for the Parole Board section of CORIS have been developed and the contractor is using those in the development work. Those specifications could be modified through a change order so that the new system could enable the Parole Board members to provide more specific reasons for the denial of parole, tailored to the circumstances of the individual inmate, and provide a report showing those reasons to the inmate, as required by

the proposed legislation. However, as with any change order, there will be an additional cost. It is not known at this time how much this change would add to the cost of CORIS.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Corrections
Parole Board

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments:

The proposed legislation, if enacted, would become effective before the Parole Board module of CORIS is expected to be operational. It would hardly be feasible for the board, with its small staff, to provide the customized explanations for denial of parole, as required by the legislation, without the new system. Although the system is scheduled to “go live” in the late summer of 2009, delays are not uncommon in the development of complex automated systems. Furthermore, there are always “bugs” in new automated systems that need to be fixed and board members and staff need time to learn the system. For these reasons, it is recommended that, if the legislation is enacted, the effective date be delayed until July 1, 2010.

Date: {2/4/2009} rwh

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