

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1786 S1

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

2. Patron: Saslaw

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Conditional release of geriatric, terminally ill, or permanently physically disabled prisoners.

5. Summary: Under current law, anyone who is serving a sentence for a felony offense, other than a Class 1 felony, who is at least 65 years old and has served at least five years of their sentence, or who is 60 years old and has served at least 10 years of their sentence may petition the Parole Board for conditional release. The substitute bill expands those eligible for consideration to include anyone who is terminally ill. It defines terminally ill as having a chronic or progressive medical condition caused by injury, disease, or illness where the medical prognosis is the person's death within 12 months. It further requires the Parole Board to review annually all inmates eligible for geriatric conditional release, except that upon any such review the Board may schedule the next review in as much as three years thereafter. Offenders who are eligible for parole consideration must be simultaneously reviewed for geriatric conditional release as well.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Parole Board, data on the number of offenders who may be eligible for consideration under the proposed legislation are not readily available. Therefore, estimating the impact this bill may have on the Parole Board or state beds is not feasible at this time. Currently, the Department of Corrections (DOC) provides support to the Parole Board as it reviews of conditional release petitions. If the bill, as amended, increases the number of cases DOC has to process, the agency's workload could be impacted. However, until the number of offenders who may be eligible for conditional release under the proposal is known, this impact cannot be determined.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Parole Board, Department of Corrections

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None

11. Other Comments: None