

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Special Session I - Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB5015

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

**2. Patron:** Miyares

**3. Committee:** House Committee on the Judiciary

**4. Title:** Parole; investigation prior to release.

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation requires the Parole Board to contact a victim prior to making any decision to release any inmate on discretionary parole and that such a victim may present virtual testimony to the parole Board concerning the impact that the release of the offender will have on the victim.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 429.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8 below).

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The Parole Board (Board) reports that there are currently 2,427 parole eligible inmates who are eligible for consideration by the Board this year. This includes both inmates who were incarcerated prior to the abolition of parole and geriatric inmates. The Board reports that data from the Department of Corrections indicates that an average of 315 inmates per year will become eligible for parole beginning in FY 2021 through FY 2026.

Fiscal Year	Number Parole Eligible
2020	2,427
2021	277
2022	261
2023	278
2024	300
2025	459
2026	317

The Board states that the numbers indicated above represent the minimum number of parole reviews that could be conducted each year. This is because, depending on the rate at which parole is granted, many of the same inmates remain eligible for parole in subsequent years, in addition to the new inmates who become eligible each year.

According to the proposed legislation, all victims are required to be contacted prior to any decision by the Board. The Board reports that although some victims are registered in the

Virginia Department of Correction's VINE system (Victim Information and Notification), many are not registered for notification.

In order to locate such individuals, the Board reports that it will require a program subscription to Lexis/Nexis in order to research and locate victims for notification. The fees for subscription to this service are approximately \$2,000 per month, or \$24,000 per year. The Board also reports that it does not have sufficient support staff to perform the search activities and provide notification to victims, given the potential number of inmates eligible for parole in future years, and therefore will require an additional full-time Victim/Witness Coordinator. The annual salary for this position, including fringe benefits and health benefits, is \$69,282 for the first year and \$71,138 for the second year, including benefits.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.