

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1247

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Obenshain

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Parole Board; decision requirements; annual reports.

5. Summary: This bill requires the Parole Board (the Board), prior to making any decision to grant discretionary parole to an inmate, to discuss and debate such a decision at a meeting at which all Board members are present. In cases in which the Board grants discretionary parole to an inmate, this bill requires each Board member to identify his reasoning for such a decision at the time the member's vote is cast. The bill requires that parole review hearings include a live interview of the prisoner, which may be conducted in person, by videoconference, or telephone, and, absent imminent death or other extraordinary circumstances, prohibits the Board from granting parole to any prisoner who has not received a live interview within the prior calendar year. The bill provides that final discharges may be issued by the Board only upon approval by a majority of Board members and requires the Board to publish an annual report regarding such final discharges, with items specified in the bill.

Under current law, the Board is required to endeavor diligently to contact the victim prior to making such a decision. The bill requires the Board to contact the victim of the crime for which the prisoner is incarcerated prior to making any decision to release the prisoner on discretionary parole and allows the victim to present testimony to the Board by virtual means.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Parole Board, the provisions of this bill can be met using existing resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Parole Board

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is companion to HB2169.