

Memo

To: Alice Emmons – Chair House Institutions and Corrections Committee

From: Dean George, Parole Board Chair

Date: March 9, 2016

Re: Bill Reports: H.617, H.623

On behalf of the Vermont Parole Board, thank you for considering our perspective on parole related issues in proposed legislation.

I have noted the significant points of concern we addressed on Wednesday February 24 relating to House Bills, H.617, and H.623, and have provided suggested language for the Medical Parole section as requested. If additional information is needed to further explain the board's reasoning for its request please feel free to contact me.

H.623

Sec 2. 28 VSA 501

Page 4

(2) Delete the proposed new language on lines 12, 13, 14, & 15, and make no change to the existing language which states "If the inmate's sentence has a minimum term the inmate shall be eligible for parole consideration".

(3) As medical parole already exists in 28 VSA 502a (d) Delete proposed new section (3), and change the current release on medical parole language in 28 VSA 502a (d) from "who is diagnosed as suffering from a terminal or debilitating condition" to "**who is diagnosed as suffering from a terminal or serious medical condition**"

(4) Change proposed new language to "If the inmate is 55 years of age or older but under 65 years of age, and has served ten years but not served the minimum of their sentence, the inmate shall be eligible for parole consideration, unless the inmate has programming requirements that have not been fulfilled or has received a major disciplinary report within the last 12 months."

Page 5

(5) Change proposed new language to "If the inmate is 65 years of age or older, and has served five years but not served the minimum of their sentence, the inmate shall be"

eligible for parole consideration, unless the inmate has programming requirements that have not been fulfilled or has received a major disciplinary report within the last 12 months.

Please note: Dean George's memo has been edited in order to put his recommendations for H.617 and H.623 into two separate documents.