

H.559

Introduced by Representative Emmons of Springfield

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Corrections; Parole Board

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require training for members of the Parole Board; change the number of members of the Parole Board from five regular members and two alternate members to seven regular members; to amend the knowledge and experience background required for members of the Parole Board; and amend the responsibilities of the Director of the Parole Board.

An act relating to the Parole Board

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 28 V.S.A. § 403 is amended to read:

§ 403. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER
REGARDING PAROLE

The Commissioner is charged with the following powers and responsibilities regarding the administration of parole:

* * *

1 (6) To provide regular training for the Parole Board, at least annually, in
2 collaboration with the Parole Board Director, on topics related to making
3 determinations of parole, criminogenic behavior, mental health disorders,
4 substance use treatment, trauma-informed work with victims of crime, and
5 serious crime rehabilitation.

6 Sec. 2. 28 V.S.A. § 451 is amended to read:

7 § 451. CREATION OF BOARD

8 (a) A Parole Board of ~~five~~ seven members is created. The Governor, with
9 the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ~~five regular~~ members ~~and~~
10 ~~two alternates~~ for terms of three years in such a manner that not more than
11 three terms shall expire annually. Initial terms may be less than three years.
12 No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. Each member ~~and~~
13 ~~alternate~~ shall hold office until a successor is appointed and qualified. The
14 Governor shall designate the Board's chair. As far as practicable, the
15 Governor shall appoint as members persons who have knowledge of and
16 experience in ~~correctional treatment, crime prevention, or human relations~~
17 criminogenic behavior, mental health treatment, substance use disorder, or
18 serious crime rehabilitation, and shall give consideration, as far as practicable,
19 to geographic representation of the State. The Board shall select one of its
20 members to serve as Vice Chair of the Board. If the Chair resigns or is
21 otherwise permanently unable to serve on the Board, the Vice Chair shall serve

1 as interim chair until the Governor designates a new chair pursuant to this
2 section. ~~The Chair or the executive director may assign alternates to serve on~~
3 ~~the Board in the absence of a regular member and such alternates shall have all~~
4 ~~the powers and authority of a regular member when so assigned.~~

5 (b) Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct
6 of a meeting. Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 172, the concurrence of a majority
7 of members present at a Parole Board meeting shall be necessary and sufficient
8 for Board action.

9 (c) The Chair of the Parole Board shall be entitled to compensation in the
10 amount of \$20,500.00 annually, effective on the first pay period in fiscal year
11 2006, which shall be in lieu of any per diem otherwise authorized by law. If
12 the Vice Chair assumes the duties of the Chair for a period in excess of 30
13 consecutive days, the compensation otherwise payable to the Chair during ~~his~~
14 ~~or her~~ the Chair's absence shall be paid to the Vice Chair.

15 (d) At least annually, each member of the Parole Board shall attend
16 trainings designated by the Parole Board Director.

17 Sec. 3. 28 V.S.A. § 455 is amended to read:

18 § 455. DIRECTOR

19 (a) The position of Parole Board Director is created. The Director shall be
20 appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Board.

1 (b) The Director shall serve for a term of four years commencing on March
2 1 and continuing until ~~his or her~~ a successor is appointed.

3 (c) The Director shall be exempt from classified State service.

4 (d) The Secretary of Human Services, in consultation with the Parole Board
5 and the Department of Human Resources, shall establish the minimum and
6 preferred qualifications, duties, and compensation of the Director.

7 (e) The Director shall be responsible for the overall function of the Parole
8 Board, ensuring legal compliance, developing and implementing all policies
9 and procedures of the Board, and developing and providing training to the
10 Board, in collaboration with the Commissioner.

11 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

12 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.