

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7133

AN ACT CONCERNING PAROLE ELIGIBILITY.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Correction (Board of Pardons and Parole)	GF - Potential Cost	None	See Below
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	None	See Below
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	None	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which expands parole eligibility to certain offenders who committed their crimes between the ages of 18 and 21, results in a potential cost to the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the State Comptroller – Fringe Benefits and a potential savings to the Department of Correction for reduced incarceration beginning in FY 27. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300.²

The potential cost to the Board of Pardons and Paroles depends on the extent to which the board will need to hold more hearings per month to accommodate an increase in parole applications. If the number of

¹ The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active hazardous duty employee fringe benefit cost is 49.15% of payroll in FY 26.

² Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.).

additional hearings is great enough, the board may need to hire additional parole officers to interview applicants, conduct risk assessments, and complete comprehensive summaries that provide board members with information regarding an applicant's criminal, social, and correctional history, as well as details of their current offense(s). The annual salary for a parole officer is \$78,931, requiring estimated fringe benefits of \$38,795. Because these hearings require a one-year notice to the Public Defender's Office, the fiscal impact will not begin until FY 27.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of inmates granted parole. The number of inmates eligible for parole hearings under this bill is expected to decrease after the first year.