

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1502

AN ACT CONCERNING SENTENCE REDUCTION OR RELIEF FOR
SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT,
STALKING OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Correction (Board of Pardons and Parole)	GF - Cost	283,127 - 512,137	566,253 - 1,024,273
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	132,815 - 239,646	265,630 - 479,292
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which allows certain survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking to be eligible for sentence reduction or modification and expands such survivors' parole and commutation eligibility, results in (1) a cost of \$283,127 to \$512,137 in FY 26 and \$566,253 to \$1,024,273 in FY 27 to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, (2) a cost of \$132,815 to \$239,646 in FY 26 and \$265,630 to \$479,292 in FY 27 to the State Comptroller – Fringe Benefits, and (3) a potential savings to the Department of Correction (DOC) for incarceration beginning in FY 26. On average, the marginal savings to

¹ The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26. The estimated active hazardous duty employee fringe benefit cost is 49.15% of payroll in FY 26.

the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300.² The extent to which current law already allows such survivors to obtain sentencing relief may mitigate the impact to DOC. All FY 26 costs reflect the bill's partial year implementation.

The cost to the Board of Pardons and Paroles is dependent on how many additional hearings are required to accommodate the increase in parole applications resulting from this bill. There are estimated to be at least 2,000 inmates who would be eligible to apply for parole under this bill. If these inmates submit applications that meet the bill's evidentiary requirements, the board is required to hold a parole hearing within 120 days. To accommodate these additional hearings, the board may be required to hire 5 to 10 additional parole officers,³ one Parole and Community Services Supervisor,⁴ and one to two office assistants.⁵ Additionally, it may not be feasible to meet the bill's hearing deadlines without an increase to the statutory number of board members; although, all five part-time member positions are currently vacant. Equipment expenses for these positions are estimated to be between \$17,500 and \$32,500 annually.

The bill also establishes various reporting requirements for the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Judicial Department which are not expected to result in a fiscal impact.

² Inmate marginal savings is based on decreased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a reduction in staffing costs or other utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility closed.

³ These officers are generally assigned to correctional facilities and will 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.

⁴ The Parole Supervisor is responsible for re-calculating eligibility, certifying case files, assigning cases to institutional parole officers, reviewing interview information, and scheduling hearings. The annual salary for this position is \$105,733.

⁵ The office assistants process and gather necessary documents prior to the hearings, send out notifications of the hearings, and producing minutes after the hearings. The annual salary for an office assistant is \$48,365.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to number of survivors granted relief under this bill. The number of inmates eligible for parole hearings under this bill is expected to decrease after the first year but will remain higher than the current level.