

Judiciary Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-398 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES.

Vote Date: 3/23/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/16/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

In order for the members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles (BoPP) to be compensated adequately and justly, this bill removes the \$110 per diem cap for their part-time members and allows the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services to determine the amount.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Vanessa Cardella, Executive Director of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB): She testified in support of the bill because it would extend the same administrative compensation framework to PSRB members. She stated that PSRB members make complex public safety and clinical decisions for individuals found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect, and that the current rate is \$75/day per diem, set in 1985. She furthered that moving per diem determination to an administrative process would allow flexibility, periodic review, and alignment with the Board of Pardons and Paroles without mandating specific pay levels.

Jennifer Zaccagnini, Chairperson of the Board of Pardons and Paroles: She testified in support of the bill because it would allow per diem compensation for part-time board members to be set by the Department of Administrative Services rather than by statute. She noted that the current \$110/day rate, set in 1983, is outdated and hinders recruitment, leaving five part-time positions unfilled. She believes that allowing administrative determination of pay would provide flexibility to recruit and retain qualified members and accommodate anticipated increases in the board's workload.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Anonymous 723: Anonymous 723 opposes because SB 398 would change the current policy and could lead to uncontrolled spending.

Reported by: Trevor Ellis

Date: March 26, 2026