



WORKING DRAFT

General Assembly

Raised Bill No.

No. 9

09955 _____ JUD

Referred to Committee on

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES
AND REENTRY FURLOUGHS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 54-124a of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) There shall be a Board of Pardons and Paroles within the
5 Department of Correction, for administrative purposes only. On and
6 after October 1, 2004, the board shall consist of thirteen members
7 appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of either
8 house of the General Assembly. In the appointment of the members,
9 the Governor shall endeavor to reflect the racial diversity of the state.
10 The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from among the
11 membership. The [chairperson] members of the board appointed on or
12 after January 1, 2008, shall be qualified by [education,] experience [and
13 training] in the administration of community corrections, parole or
14 pardons, the evaluation or supervision of offenders, the provision of
15 mental health or other services to offenders, criminal justice or
16 criminology.

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17 (b) The term of each appointed member of the board serving on
18 [September 30, 2004] December 31, 2007, shall expire on said date. The
19 term of each member of the board [beginning on or after October 1,
20 2004,] shall be coterminous with the term of the Governor or until a
21 successor is chosen, whichever is later. Any vacancy in the
22 membership of the board shall be filled for the unexpired portion of
23 the term by the Governor.

24 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 54-124a of the general statutes is
25 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
26 *January 1, 2008*):

27 (c) The [chairperson] members of the board shall devote full time to
28 the performance of [the] their duties [under this section] and shall be
29 compensated therefor in such amount as the Commissioner of
30 Administrative Services determines, subject to the provisions of section
31 4-40. [The other members of said board shall receive one hundred ten
32 dollars for each day spent in the performance of their duties and shall
33 be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
34 such duties.] The chairperson or, in the chairperson's absence or
35 inability to act, a member designated by the chairperson to serve
36 temporarily as chairperson, shall be present at all meetings of said
37 board and participate in all decisions thereof.

38 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No panel of the Board of
39 Pardons and Paroles shall hold a hearing to determine the suitability
40 for parole release of any person or hold a meeting to consider the
41 recommendation of an employee of the board made pursuant to
42 section 54-125b of the general statutes to grant parole to a person
43 unless the members of the panel have reviewed the complete file on
44 such person including, but not limited to, a transcript of any
45 sentencing hearing required to be delivered to the board pursuant to
46 section 51-286f of the general statutes, a copy of any presentence
47 investigation report prepared pursuant to section 54-91a of the general
48 statutes and such person's criminal record required to be sent to the

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49 board pursuant to subsection (a) of section 54-125a of the general
50 statutes. The board shall provide each member of such panel with such
51 complete file not later than seven business days prior to the date
52 scheduled for such hearing or meeting.

53 Sec. 4. Section 18-101a of the general statutes is repealed and the
54 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

55 The Commissioner of Correction at the commissioner's discretion
56 may extend the limits of the place of confinement of an inmate as to
57 whom there is reasonable belief he or she will honor his or her trust, by
58 authorizing the inmate under prescribed conditions to visit a
59 specifically designated place or places, within or without the state, for
60 periods not exceeding thirty days and return to the same or another
61 institution or facility. Such periods may be renewed at the discretion of
62 the commissioner. Such furlough may be granted only to permit a visit
63 to a dying relative, attendance at the funeral of a relative, the obtaining
64 of medical services not otherwise available, the contacting of
65 prospective employers, or for any compelling reason consistent with
66 rehabilitation. A reentry furlough may be granted only to inmates who
67 have demonstrated good conduct and obedience to the rules of the
68 institution or facility while confined, have a low-level security risk
69 classification and are not confined for conviction of an offense
70 involving the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force
71 against another person. Any inmate who was sentenced to a period of
72 probation shall be subject, at a minimum, to the same conditions and
73 supervision while released on a reentry furlough as such inmate
74 would be subject to while released on probation. No reentry furlough
75 may be granted solely for the purpose of reducing the population of an
76 institution or facility. Any inmate who fails to return from furlough as
77 provided in the furlough agreement shall be guilty of the crime of
78 escape in the first degree. For the purposes of this section, "reentry
79 furlough" means a furlough granted for the purpose of reintegrating
80 an inmate into the community that allows such inmate to serve the
81 period immediately preceding such inmate's parole release or

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82 discharge date in the community.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	54-124a(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	54-124a(c)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	18-101a

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for the appointment of a full-time professional Board of Pardons and Paroles, provide inmate files to board members at least one week before a hearing or meeting to consider the suitability of an inmate for parole release and restrict the use of reentry furloughs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]