



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5668

LCO No. 2552

02552_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE MERGER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTION AND THE BOARD OF PAROLE.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The functions, powers
2 and duties of the Board of Parole are assigned and transferred to the
3 Department of Correction.

4 (b) All officers and employees of the Board of Parole, including the
5 chairperson of the board, are assigned and transferred to the
6 Department of Correction and shall have such authority and perform
7 such duties as the Commissioner of Correction and the general statutes
8 may prescribe.

9 (c) All persons on parole are transferred to the custody of the
10 Commissioner of Correction.

11 Sec. 2. Section 54-124a of the general statutes, as amended by section
12 161 of public act 03-6 of the June 30 special session, is repealed and the
13 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

14 (a) There shall be a Board of Parole within the Department of

15 Correction which shall consist of fifteen members, including a
16 chairman and two vice-chairmen who shall be appointed by the
17 Governor with the advice and consent of either house of the General
18 Assembly. The chairman and vice-chairmen shall be qualified by
19 training, experience or education in law, criminal justice, parole
20 matters or other related fields for the consideration of the matters
21 before them and the other members shall be qualified by training and
22 experience for the consideration of matters before them. In the
23 appointment of the members, the Governor shall endeavor to reflect
24 the racial diversity of the state.

25 (b) The term of the chairman and the term of each vice-chairman of
26 the board shall be coterminous with the term of the Governor or until a
27 successor is chosen, whichever is later. The terms of all members,
28 except the chairman, shall expire on July 1, 1994, and on or after July 1,
29 1994, members shall be appointed in accordance with subsection (a) of
30 this section as follows: Six members shall be appointed for a term of
31 two years; and six members shall be appointed for a term of four years.
32 Thereafter, all members shall serve for terms of four years. Any
33 vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled for the
34 unexpired portion of the term by the Governor.

35 (c) The chairman shall devote full time to the performance of the
36 duties hereunder and shall be compensated therefor in such amount as
37 the Commissioner of Administrative Services determines, subject to
38 the provisions of section 4-40. The other members of said board shall
39 receive one hundred ten dollars for each day spent in the performance
40 of their duties and shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred
41 in the performance of such duties. The chairman or, in his absence or
42 inability to act, a member designated by him to serve temporarily as
43 chairman, shall be present at all meetings of said board and participate
44 in all decisions thereof.

45 [(d) The Commissioner of Correction shall have the authority and
46 responsibility for (1) directing and supervising all administrative

47 affairs of the board, (2) preparing the budget and annual operation
48 plan in consultation with the board, (3) assigning staff to parole panels,
49 regions and supervision offices, (4) organizing parole hearing
50 calendars to facilitate the timely and efficient processing of cases, (5)
51 implementing a uniform case filing and processing system, (6)
52 establishing policy in all areas of parole including, but not limited to,
53 decision making, release criteria and supervision standards, (7)
54 establishing specialized parole units as deemed necessary, (8) entering
55 into contracts, in consultation with the board, with service providers,
56 community programs and consultants for the proper function of parole
57 and community supervision, (9) creating programs for staff and board
58 member development, training and education, (10) establishing,
59 developing and maintaining noninstitutional, community-based
60 service programs, and (11) signing and issuing subpoenas to compel
61 the attendance and testimony of witnesses at parole proceedings. Any
62 such subpoena shall be enforceable to the same extent as subpoenas
63 issued pursuant to section 52-143.

64 (e) The chairman shall have the authority and responsibility for
65 assigning members to panels, each to be composed of two members
66 and the chairman or a member designated to serve temporarily as
67 chairman, for each correctional institution. Such panels shall be the
68 paroling authority for the institutions to which they are assigned and
69 not less than two members shall be present at each parole hearing.]

70 [(f)] (d) In the event of the temporary inability of any member other
71 than the chairman to perform his or her duties, the Governor, at the
72 request of the board, may appoint a qualified person to serve as a
73 temporary member during such period of inability.

74 [(g) The Board of Parole shall: (1) Adopt an annual budget and plan
75 of operation, (2) adopt such rules as deemed necessary for the internal
76 affairs of the board, (3) develop policy for and administer the
77 operation of the Interstate Parole Compact, and (4) submit an annual
78 report to the Governor and General Assembly.]

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To further implement the merger of the Department of Correction and the Board of Parole.

[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.]