



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

**Substitute Bill No. 6624**

\*          HB06624JUD          033009          \*

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

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

1       Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 54-124a of the general statutes is  
2       repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3       *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 February 1, 2008, and prior to July 1, 2008, the board shall consist  
7       of not more than twenty-five members appointed by the Governor.]  
8       On and after July 1, 2008, and prior to July 1, 2009, the board shall  
9       consist of eighteen members. On and after July 1, 2009, the board shall  
10      consist of twenty members. On and after February 1, 2008, the  
11      Governor shall appoint all members of the board with the advice and  
12      consent of both houses of the General Assembly. On and after July 1,  
13      2008, twelve of the members shall serve exclusively on parole release  
14      panels, five of the members shall serve exclusively on pardons panels  
15      and the chairperson may serve on both parole release panels and  
16      pardons panels, except that on and after July 1, 2009, seven of the  
17      members shall serve exclusively on pardons panels. In the  
18      appointment of the members on and after February 1, 2008, the  
19      Governor shall specify the member being appointed as chairperson,  
20      the full-time and part-time members being appointed to serve on  
21      parole release panels and the members being appointed to serve on  
22      pardons panels. In the appointment of the members, the Governor

23 shall comply with the provisions of section 4-9b. The Governor shall  
24 appoint a chairperson from among the membership. The members of  
25 the board appointed on or after February 1, 2008, shall be qualified by  
26 education, experience or training in the administration of community  
27 corrections, parole or pardons, criminal justice, criminology, the  
28 evaluation or supervision of offenders or the provision of mental  
29 health services to offenders. Each appointment of a member of the  
30 board submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly on or after  
31 February 1, 2008, shall be referred, without debate, to the committee on  
32 the judiciary which shall report thereon not later than thirty legislative  
33 days after the date of reference.

34 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 54-124a of the general statutes is  
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
36 *passage*):

37 (e) Of the members appointed prior to February 1, 2008, the  
38 chairperson shall assign seven members exclusively to parole release  
39 hearings and shall assign five members exclusively to pardons  
40 hearings. Except for the chairperson, no member assigned to parole  
41 release hearings may be assigned subsequently to pardons hearings  
42 and no member assigned to pardons hearings may be assigned  
43 subsequently to parole release hearings. Prior to July 1, 2008, each  
44 parole release panel shall be composed of two members from among  
45 the members assigned by the chairperson exclusively to parole release  
46 hearings or the members appointed by the Governor on or after  
47 February 1, 2008, to serve exclusively on parole release panels, and the  
48 chairperson or a member designated to serve temporarily as  
49 chairperson, for each correctional institution. On and after July 1, 2008,  
50 and prior to July 1, 2009, each parole release panel shall be composed  
51 of two members appointed by the Governor on or after February 1,  
52 2008, to serve on parole release panels, at least one of whom is a full-  
53 time member, and the chairperson or a full-time member designated to  
54 serve temporarily as chairperson, for each correctional institution. On  
55 and after July 1, 2009, each parole release panel shall be composed of  
56 two members appointed by the Governor to serve on parole release

57 panels and the chairperson or a full-time member designated to serve  
58 temporarily as chairperson, for each correctional institution. Such  
59 parole release panels shall be the paroling authority for the institutions  
60 to which they are assigned and not less than two members shall be  
61 present at each parole hearing. Each pardons panel shall be composed  
62 of three members from among the members assigned by the  
63 chairperson exclusively to pardons hearings or the members appointed  
64 by the Governor on or after February 1, 2008, to serve on pardons  
65 panels, one of whom may be the chairperson, except that for hearings  
66 on commutations from the penalty of death, one member of the panel  
67 shall be the chairperson.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	54-124a(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	54-124a(e)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In sections 1 and 2, language concerning the membership of the board and the composition of pardons and parole release panels on and after July 1, 2009, was rewritten for clarity.

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*