



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 61

February Session, 2010

House Bill No. 5250

House of Representatives, March 16, 2010

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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 2010 supplement
2 to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in
3 lieu thereof (*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 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, 2010, the board shall
9 consist of eighteen members, and on and after July 1, 2010, the board
10 shall consist of twenty members. [On and after February 1, 2008, the]
11 The Governor shall appoint all members of the board with the advice
12 and consent of both houses of the General Assembly. On and after July
13 1, 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, 2010, 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
 32 on the judiciary which shall report thereon not later than thirty
 33 legislative days after the date of reference.

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

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

Adding two part-time pardons board members is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact. Eight pardons hearings are currently held annually, involving panels of three members each. While the bill expands the pool of individuals from whom a three member panel is chosen, it does not alter the frequency of hearings, nor does it change a panel's composition from three members.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5250*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES.*****SUMMARY:**

Beginning July 1, 2010, this bill increases (1) from 18 to 20, the membership on the Board of Pardons and Paroles and (2) the number of board members who must serve exclusively on the panels that grant pardons from five to seven.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***The Board of Pardons and Paroles***

The chairman of this board serves full time, as do five of the members who serve on parole panels. The remaining board members serve part time and are paid \$110 per day, plus necessary expenses.

By law, the board has independent decision-making authority to grant or deny parole, establish conditions of parole or special parole supervision, rescind or revoke parole or special parole, grant releases, or commute punishment (CGS § 54-124a(f)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 34 Nay 0 (03/03/2010)