

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
Testimony re: Judiciary Committee Raised Bill No. 5250

An Act Concerning the Board of Pardons & Paroles

February 26th, 2010

Submitted by Robert Farr, Chairman - Board of Pardons and Paroles

Good Afternoon, Representative Lawlor, and Senator McDonald, and members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Robert Farr, Chairman of the Board of Pardons & Paroles. I am here today to testify in support of bill no. 5250, An Act Concerning the Board of Pardons & Paroles.

This bill would increase the size of the Board of Pardons & Parole by two new members, who would sit on Pardons Hearings only

First, I would like to testify on the need for two new Board Members. The Board hears applications for pardons in each of the four quarters of the year. Three years ago the Board was conducting one hearing in each quarter, in which three Board Members would be assigned to the hearing and another member was assigned as a back-up in case at the last moment one of the assigned members was not available. Because of the increase in volume in applications for pardons, we now conduct two hearings each quarter, which require each member of the Board to serve on a full hearing every quarter and we no longer assign a member to be a back-up. If a Board Member is not available to sit on any of the hearings, another Board Member has to sit on two hearings during a quarter. Four of the five Board Members are employed full-time, and this is an imposition we are trying to avoid. With the addition of two Board Members, we would be able to return to the pattern of having back-up members for every hearing cycle. There would be no additional cost for the two new Board Members because we would still be having the same number of hearings.

Thank you for your attention. I would be happy to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Farr

Robert Farr,
Chairman