

Judiciary Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-831

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO SPECIAL PAROLE AND

Title: PAROLE DISCHARGE STATUTES

Vote Date: 4/10/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/15/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Judiciary Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill makes minor revisions to the early parole discharge statutes and conforming changes pursuant to public act 18-63.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language adds a new section to the raised bill, but changes nothing else. The new section requires the Office of Victim Services to notify the victim of the crime for which the person is serving a period of special parole whenever the Board of Pardons and Paroles considers the termination of such person's period of special parole. Any registered victim may submit a statement to the board concerning whether such person's period of special parole should be terminated.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY (SUPPORT):

Board of Pardons and Paroles, Chairperson, Carleton J. Giles:

This bill makes several technical and minor changes to the early parole discharge statute as amended by Public Act 18-63 and the surrounding statutory scheme. These revisions reduce and eliminate ambiguity surrounding the composition of review panels; modernize the language of the underlying outdated discharge statute; and make conforming changes.

Office of the Victim Advocate, State Victim Advocate, Natasha M. Pierre:

This bill amends Public Act No. 18-63, which allows the Board of Pardons and Paroles to discharge a person serving a period of special parole without a court order and without notice to the victim. The victim advocate recommends language requiring the victim of the crime for which the person received special parole be notified about the board's intent to consider terminating that special parole. (*The substitute language adds this requirement.*)

Office of the Chief Public Defender, Legal Counsel, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan:

This bill contains technical language which clarifies the existing statutes as they pertain to the powers of the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The bill increases the number of members on the panel that make determinations about discharges of persons on parole or special parole from two to three.

RESPONSE FROM PUBLIC (SUPPORT):

ACLU-CT, Executive Director, David McGuire:

The ACLU-CT supports this bill because it would help ensure that special parole is only used for as long as is necessary. Connecticut disproportionately sentences people of color to special parole, and disproportionately sends people of color back to prison for violating conditions of special parole. This bill helps check that special parole is only used when necessary.

One Standard of Justice, Rev. Andrew Osmun:

One Standard of Justice supports the improvements in language and the expansion of the review panel from two to three persons. It is hoped that this measure will assist the State in reducing the numbers of individuals on Special Parole, and address the unbalanced racial makeup of persons serving Special Parole as noted in testimony submitted by the ACLU.

Reported by: Robert J. Anderson

April 24, 2019