

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

Fiscal Analysis:

Currently, the Parole Board (Board) consists of five members appointed by the Governor. At this time, it is not clear how many additional Board members would be appointed and if such members would be full-time or part-time. Section § 4-6.01 (Employee Compensation) of the Introduced Budget (HB1600/SB800) sets the compensation of a full-time member of the Parole Board at \$144,745. Accounting for fringe and health benefits, the estimated cost for each additional full-time member is \$177,892. The Board reports that the cost of a part-time board member is \$91,845. The total annual cost for five additional full-time Board members is \$889,460. The position table above includes five additional FTE for these positions.

Currently, there are three support technicians for the five existing Board members. If additional members are appointed by the Governor, the Board believes it will need up to three additional technicians to support the newly appointed Board members. The annual cost for each full-time program support technician is \$55,336 (includes salary and benefits). The total annual cost for three additional support technicians is \$166,009. In addition to entering the actions and deliberations of members into the Department of Corrections Information System (CORIS), technicians are also tasked with transcribing and entering into CORIS each Board member's appointments with constituents supporting or opposing pardons for individual inmates slated for a parole interview. The position table above includes three additional FTE for these positions.

Additionally, with approximately 3,000 inmates eligible for parole consideration, the cost to provide copies of the information gathered pursuant to § 53.1-155 will require an additional records officer to compile, review, and redact the information to disseminate to inmates/attorneys. The annual cost for a records officer is \$79,930 (includes salary and benefits). The position table above includes one FTE for this position.

The Board, in consultation with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the contractor that works on the CORIS offender management system (Abilis), reports that expansion of the Board to ten members will also require programming changes to the Board's CORIS Parole Board Module. However, the cost associated with the changes would not be known until DOC and Abilis complete a full assessment of the bill's requirements. The Board reports that the increased complexity of the Parole Board Module in CORIS may also require an additional systems analyst to provide IT support. Currently, the DOC provides CORIS support for the Board and is financially responsible for making any systems changes. The annual cost for a full-time systems analyst is estimated at \$153,712 (includes salary and benefits) and is included in the position table total.

The Board also reports that the current office space within the DOC headquarters building may be insufficient to provide accommodation for five new Board members and additional support staff. An assessment of office space and equipment needs would have to be conducted to determine if additional funding would be needed. It is anticipated that no matter the space location, there will be one-time equipment and furniture costs for the nine positions of approximately \$89,000 In FY 2026.

The bill removes the authority of the Board to establish the conditions or revoke any period of postrelease supervision of felons but does not indicate which entity would assume responsibility. The Board reports

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managing 148 postrelease cases in calendar year 2024 but could not provide an estimate of the cost for handling these cases. Therefore, additional analysis is needed in order to assess the fiscal impact of this provision.

Other: None