

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED:

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB318

Patron: Hope

Bill Title: Virginia Parole Board; powers and duties; juvenile offenders; parole procedures and considerations.

Bill Summary: Increases the members of the Virginia Parole Board (the Board) from up to five to at least 10 members, five of whom shall be appointed by the Governor within 60 days of inauguration, three of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates within 60 days after a new House is sworn in after an election, and two of whom shall be appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules within 60 days after a new Senate is sworn in after an election, and all of whom shall be subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, if in session when such appointment is made, and if not in session, then at its next succeeding session. The bill specifies that all members of the Board shall have significant professional experience working in criminal law, corrections, reentry and community services, or victim services and that the Board members appointed by the Governor shall include (i) an attorney with significant experience in criminal prosecution; (ii) an attorney with significant experience in criminal defense; (iii) a qualified mental health professional with relevant background in adolescent development, trauma responses, psychology, and decision-making; and (iv) a representative of a crime victims organization or a victim of crime. The provisions of the bill have a delayed effective date of July 1, 2028.

The bill requires that at least 30 days prior to the Board's final deliberation and vote regarding whether or not to grant a prisoner parole, the Board provide a true copy of all information collected through the investigation conducted into the prisoner's history, physical and mental condition and character, and his conduct, employment, and attitude while in prison to the prisoner or his attorney either electronically or in paper form, provided neither the prisoner nor his attorney willfully or intentionally further disclose, reproduce, copy, or disseminate such information. If parole is denied, the bill requires the Board provide steps the inmate may take to demonstrate commitment to rehabilitation. The bill also requires the Board to provide a meaningful opportunity for release to certain juvenile offenders eligible for parole and specifies various factors the Board shall consider when making a determination on whether to grant parole to such juvenile offender.

The bill allows a juvenile offender to request reconsideration or appeal of a decision by the Board not to grant parole based on (a) the Board's failure to consider such juvenile offender's age and its related mitigating circumstances as required by the bill or (b) the Board's consideration of the circumstances of the offense outweighing evidence of rehabilitation and a lack of present danger to public safety. The bill requires the Board to provide individualized reasons for the grant or denial of parole upon reconsideration or appeal. The bill also requires that if parole is denied for any such juvenile offender, each Board member shall identify his reasoning for such decision at the time such member's vote is cast, including any youth-related factor and evidence of maturity and rehabilitation that was considered. The bill requires that the Board provide to such inmate steps the inmate may take to demonstrate commitment to rehabilitation and requires the Board to

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consider whether the inmate has taken such steps at the next hearing. The bill requires the Board to annually review the cases of such juvenile offenders eligible for parole.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: Item 419 (The Board), Item 390 (DOC)

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary:

This proposal requires five additional Board members. Additional funding would be required for the Board member salaries and salaries of additional support staff required for the members, as well as IT updates.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
Virginia Parole Board		\$1,221,231-\$1,781,651	\$1,111,231-\$1,671,651	\$1,111,231-\$1,671,651	\$1,111,231-\$1,671,651	\$1,111,231-\$1,671,651
Department of Corrections	\$40,000	\$5,080,000-\$8,080,000				
TOTAL	\$40,000	\$6,301,231-\$9,861,651	\$1,111,231-\$1,671,651	\$1,111,231-\$1,671,651	\$1,111,231-\$1,671,651	\$1,111,231-\$1,671,651

Position Impact:

Agency	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
Virginia Parole Board		11	11	11	11	11
TOTAL		11	11	11	11	11

Fiscal Analysis:

According to the Parole Board (Board), the Board consists of five members appointed by the Governor. This bill would add at least five additional members. 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. The Board is presently a mix of part-time and full-time members. Section § 4-6.01 (Employee Compensation) of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30) sets the median compensation of a full-time member of the Parole Board at \$153,590.

Accounting for fringe and health benefits, the estimated cost for each additional full-time member is \$212,101. The Board reports that the annual cost of a part-time board member is \$101,413. The total annual cost for five additional full-time Board members would be \$1,060,503 and the total annual cost for five part-time Board members would be \$507,065. The general fund expenditure table shows the annual cost ranging from five part-time Board members to five full-time members. The position table above includes five additional FTE for these positions.

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To support the additional five new Board members, the Board states it would require three new clerk positions to be hired to schedule hearings, keep minutes, and ensure that meeting notices and minutes are posted for the public. The Board estimates each clerk would cost \$74,768 for salary and fringe. The total annual cost for three clerks would be \$224,304. The Board also states it would need an additional records officer to compile, review, and redact the information to disseminate to inmates and attorneys. The Board estimates the records officer would cost \$100,062 for salary and fringe. Four FTE are included in the table for these positions.

According to the Virginia Parole Board (the Board), to effectively assess the criteria listed in the bill, the Board would need to create a new full-time Parole Examiner position with expertise in adolescent development. Based on the pay of an existing wage employee with a background in adolescent development, the Board estimates the annual cost for the new Parole Examiner would start at \$103,856 including salary and fringe in FY 2027. One FTE is included in the table for this position.

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 11 positions of approximately \$110,000 in FY2027.

The Board uses the Department of Corrections Information System (CORIS) to manage offender information and voting. Currently, the Department of Corrections (DOC) provides CORIS support for the Board and is financially responsible for making any systems changes. The Board, in consultation with DOC and the contractor that works on the CORIS offender management system (Abilis), reports that carrying out the provisions of this bill would require programming changes to the Board's CORIS Parole Board Module. DOC reports that expanding CORIS to accommodate 10 Board members in total would cost between \$5-8 million. Additionally, DOC estimates that adding a new subcategory of discretionary parole for juvenile offenders would cost \$40,000 upfront with an additional \$80,000 to complete the project for a total of \$120,000 in one-time costs.

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 \$175,944 for salary and fringe and is included in the position table total.

Other: Similar to SB60.