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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 256  
133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 256's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Manning and Lehner

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The notification and review costs to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's (DRC) Parole Board are expected to be minimal annually and absorbed utilizing existing resources. DRC may realize some marginal annual savings in its institutional operating costs, as it is generally less expensive to supervise an offender in the community than it is to incarcerate that offender in a state prison.
- The costs for the State Public Defender and county prosecutors to participate in the Parole Board's review process are expected to be minimal annually and absorbed utilizing existing resources.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill prohibits a court from imposing a term of life without parole on an offender who was under the age of 18 at the time of the commission of any offense, and provides special parole eligibility dates for prisoners serving an indefinite or life sentence imposed for an offense other than aggravated homicide committed when the prisoner was less than 18 years of age.

Based on conversations with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) on prior bills that have included these parole eligibility provisions, LBO estimates the following:

- Around 50 to 60 prisoners will become parole eligible immediately upon the bill's effective date.
- The number of prisoners to whom the parole eligibility provisions will apply in subsequent years is likely to be around 20 to 30 annually.
- The number of prisoners that will be released into DRC's Adult Parole Authority annually is likely to be between five to ten.

To the extent that certain offenders are successful in seeking parole, DRC may realize some marginal annual savings in its institutional operating costs, as it is generally less expensive to supervise an offender in the community than it is to incarcerate that offender in a state prison. The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's marginal annual incarceration cost for a small number of additional offenders is nearly \$4,000 per offender.

The Parole Board is required to: (1) conduct a hearing to consider the prisoner's release on parole within a reasonable time once a prisoner is eligible for parole, (2) permit the State Public Defender to appear at the hearing to support the prisoner's release, (3) consider certain mitigating factors, and (4) notify the State Public Defender, the victim, and the appropriate prosecuting attorney at least 60 days before the Board begins any review or proceeding.

The notification and review costs to the Parole Board are expected to be minimal annually and absorbed utilizing existing resources. The annual costs to the State Public Defender and county prosecutors to participate in the Board's review process are expected to be minimal annually and absorbed utilizing existing resources.