



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Joseph Rogers

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 272 of the 131st G.A.

Date: May 10, 2016

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sens. Thomas and Eklund

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Special parole eligibility dates for certain prisoners

State Fiscal 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 legal defense costs to the Public Defender are expected to be minimal annually and absorbed utilizing existing resources.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The costs for either the court of common pleas or the county prosecuting attorney to participate in the Parole Board's review process are expected to be minimal annually and absorbed utilizing existing resources.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill provides special parole eligibility dates for prisoners serving an indefinite or life sentence imposed for an offense committed when the prisoner was less than 18 years of age. This provision will only apply to prisoners serving a prison term of at least 15 years.

According to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), there are about 60 or so eligible prisoners, out of an annual intake of more than 20,000 offenders committed to DRC each year. Not every prisoner automatically receives parole at their first hearing before DRC's Parole Board, so it is difficult to predict how many would be granted parole in any given year. DRC expects the bill could result in the release of five to ten prisoners into its parole supervision system each year. In any given month, DRC's Adult Parole Authority is supervising around 36,000 offenders statewide.

The notification and review costs to the 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 bill requires the Parole Board to notify the Ohio Public Defender of the prisoner's eligibility for review at least 60 days before the Board begins any review or proceedings involving the prisoner. The legal defense costs to the Public Defender are expected to be minimal annually and absorbed utilizing existing resources.

Prior to the parole consideration hearing, the Parole Board will also notify the appropriate court of common pleas and county prosecuting attorney. The court and prosecuting attorney would then determine in each such instance what its respective level of involvement will be in the Parole Board's review process. The costs for either the court or the prosecuting attorney to participate in this process are expected to be minimal annually and absorbed utilizing existing resources.