

Subject Parole Board

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Overview

This bill establishes a parole board with the authority to parole certain inmates who are incarcerated in state prisons. The bill sets forth the membership of the board, describes its powers and duties, and establishes minimum criteria that an inmate must meet in order to be eligible for parole consideration. The bill also outlines the board's powers with respect to those offenders who are paroled and describes how their conduct in the community will be regulated.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Parole board. Creates a parole board with the authority to parole inmates of state correctional facilities.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Creation. Creates a five-member parole board. Authorizes the governor to appoint four of the members, no more than two of which belong to the same political party. Provides that the fifth member is an unclassified officer of the Department of Corrections (DOC), appointed by the commissioner of corrections, who shall serve as chair of the board.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Qualifications. Requires that candidates for appointment to the board must have knowledge or experience in corrections or related fields and be selected based on their sound judgment and their ability to consider both the needs of potential parolees and public safety.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Terms of office; reappointment. Provides that members' serve six-year staggered terms and that members may be reappointed.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Compensation; expenses. Establishes the compensation for the board members who do not work for the Department of Corrections as 85 percent of the salary of a district court judge.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Quorum. Provides that three members constitute a quorum of the board and that the chair may, with the commissioner's approval, appoint DOC employees to provide administrative support to the board.</p>

Section	Description
2	<p>Board powers; limitations. Prescribes the powers of the board to parole inmates of state correctional facilities.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Powers. Specifies which inmates are eligible for parole.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Sex offenders; parole eligibility. Sex offenders are ineligible for parole.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Limitations. Prohibits the board from paroling an inmate until the inmate has served one-half of the inmate's "sentence-to-serve"; that is, one-half of the time the inmate will spend in prison, not on supervised release.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Legal custody of parolees. Provides that, once paroled, the offender remains in the legal custody of the board and may be returned to prison at any time. Provides authority for law enforcement agencies to take paroled offenders into custody.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Parole hearings. Describes the process for conducting parole hearings.</p> <p>Subd. 6. Report. Requires the board to submit an annual report to the legislature.</p>
3	<p>Credits for prisoners. Requires that all inmates be credited for their good conduct and charged with their bad conduct while in prison. Requires the commissioner to inform the board of an inmate's behavioral status one month before the inmate's parole hearing.</p>
4	<p>Duty of board; final discharge. Authorizes the board to grant a paroled offender a final discharge from confinement and describes the process and criteria for doing so. Requires that the board be satisfied that the offender is rehabilitated, trustworthy, and will remain law-abiding, and that discharge is compatible with public safety.</p>
5	<p>Supervision by commissioner of corrections; agents. Other than in the Community Corrections Act counties, requires the commissioner of corrections to supervise offenders released on parole. Provides for the appointment of state agents to perform this function and outlines their duties. Requires the commissioner to provide administrative support to the board.</p>
6	<p>Deputization of out-of-state agents. Permits the board to deputize employees of other states to act as agents of Minnesota to effect the return of offenders who have violated their parole or probation.</p>

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7	Rules governing paroles. Authorizes the board to adopt rules governing the granting of parole and final discharge. Provides that any rule having the effect of postponing parole eligibility be given prospective effect only.
8	Initial terms. Specifies terms for initial board members.
9	Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of corrections to implement this proposal.
10	Effective date. Day following final enactment



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