PAROLE

Provides relative to parole hearings

Current law provides that the Committee on Parole may order a reconsideration of a case for parole or a rehearing at any time. The Administrative Code further outlines timelines in which offenders may apply for rehearing; offenders convicted of 1st or 2nd degree murder or manslaughter may reapply for rehearing after 2 years.

Proposed legislation provides that the Committee on Parole shall consider a parole rehearing of any prisoner who is serving a sentence for 1st degree murder, 2nd degree murder, or manslaughter no earlier than 4 years after the initial date of denial of parole.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There will be an increase in SGF expenditures for the Department of Public Safety & Corrections - Corrections Services (DPS&C) as a result of the proposed measure.

Currently under the Administrative Code, offenders serving a sentence for 1st degree murder, 2nd degree murder, or manslaughter may request a rehearing 2 years after the original date of denial of parole, and may request each subsequent hearing every 2 years after the date of the initial reapplication.

The proposed law provides that offenders may request a rehearing no earlier than 4 years after the initial date of denial of parole. There will be a increase in expenditures for DPS&C to the extent an offender remains in custody longer under the proposed law than they would have under the current law. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable as the granting of parole is at the discretion of the Committee on Parole. However, any offender remaining in the custody of DPS&C increases SGF expenditures $26.39 per day per offender (and $9,632 annually per offender) in adult local housing and $83.23 (and $30,379 annually per offender) per day per offender in a state facility.

For informational purposes only, there are currently 2,507 offenders in DPS&C custody for 1st degree murder, 2nd degree murder, or manslaughter that are eligible for parole. Forty-three (43) of those had a hearing in 2021 and were denied parole.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.