

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 444** HLS 23RS 855  
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 11, 2023	6:05 AM	<b>Author:</b> FREIBERG
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Corrections		
<b>Subject:</b> Parole Eligibility Criteria		<b>Analyst:</b> Daniel Druilhet

PAROLE RE DECREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to parole eligibility for certain offenders

Current law provides that a person convicted and imprisoned shall attain parole consideration if he has obtained a high school diploma or GED or, if deemed incapable of obtaining a GED due to a learning disability, completion of a literacy program, adult basic education program, or job skills training program. Current law delineates the time frame of parole eligibility based on a variety of conditions and provides an enumerated list of offenders based on the age during which the offense was committed, number of years of the prison sentence already served, and date of indictment for the offense. Proposed law amends present law to remove the requirement that an inmate from an enumerated list of offenders obtain a GED certification and lists completion of a literacy program, adult basic education program, a job skills training program, or obtaining a high school equivalency certificate as one four options available to inmates to meet education requirements for parole eligibility consideration. Proposed law removes as a condition for parole eligibility, the exception that an offender who is deemed incapable of obtaining a high school equivalency certificate be required to complete a literacy program, adult basic education program, or a job skills training program. Proposed law provides that enrollment or completion of conditions for parole shall not apply to parolees who have already obtained a high school equivalency certificate or high school diploma.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	DECREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law will likely result in an indeterminable decrease in SGF expenditures to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections - Corrections Services (DPS & C - CS) to the extent that inmates previously required to obtain a GED credential are provided additional options to meet education requirements for parole eligibility. Current law provides an enumerated list of options to inmates to attain parole eligibility -- completing a GED or, if deemed by a certified educator as being incapable of obtaining a GED, completing a literacy program, adult education program, or a job skills training program. Proposed law has the effect of making completion of a high school equivalency certificate as one of four options (rather than the required means) to meet education requirements for parole eligibility. Thus, inmates previously mandated to obtain the GED certification are given a more expansive choice of options, which has the potential of increasing the number of inmates eligible for parole. The exact fiscal impact on expenditures is indeterminable, because there is no way to determine how many inmates will become eligible for parole or the adjustments to the length of incarceration stays as a result of enactment of the proposed legislation.

SGF expenditures will decrease by \$101.76 per offender per day to the extent that an offender currently incarcerated in a state facility completes education requirements and becomes eligible and is released under parole supervision or \$26.39 per offender per day for an offender housed in a local facility. An offender sentenced to the custody of the DPSC - CS for one year would decrease expenditures by \$37,142.40 (\$101.76 per day x 365 days) if housed in a state facility and \$9,632.35 (\$26.39 per day x 365 days) if housed in a local facility.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law will likely result in an indeterminable increase in self-generated revenue to DPS&C - Probation and Parole to the extent any offender in custody is released on parole supervision as a result of enactment of the proposed legislation. The current daily parole supervision rate for adult offenders is \$5.60 per day, which would result in an annual loss of \$2,044 (\$5.60 x 365) in parole supervision SGR.

Senate Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

*Evan Brasseaux*  
**Evan Brasseaux**  
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer