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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by James Benton.

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## DIGEST

### Mills (SB 473)

Present law creates a committee on parole in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections which will enforce the provisions of present law and the rules, regulations, and orders issued pursuant to present law.

Present law provides that each member, except for the ex officio member, shall possess not less than five years actual experience in the field of penology, corrections, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, or a combination thereof. Provides that the provisions of present law shall not apply to any person serving as a member of the board on August 1, 2012.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the additional requirement that each member must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Proposed law adds psychology or psychiatry to the areas of experience. Further provides that if the member does not have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, he or she must have no less than seven years experience in a field listed in this subsection.

Present law provides that within 90 days of being appointed to the committee on parole, each member shall complete a comprehensive training course developed by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. The training course shall be developed using the training components consistent with those offered by the National Institute of Corrections or the American Probation and Parole Association, and shall include classes regarding the following topics:

- (1) The elements of the decision making process, through the use of evidence-based practices for determining offender risk, needs, and motivation to change, including the actuarial assessment tool used by the parole agent.
- (2) The security classifications as established by the department.
- (3) The programming and disciplinary processes and the department's supervision, case planning, and violation process.
- (4) The dynamics of criminal victimization.
- (5) Collaboration with corrections related stakeholders, both public and private, to increase offender success and public safety.

Proposed law retains present law but only requires voting members to attend the training course and provides that the training course shall be developed in compliance with guidelines from the

National Institute of Corrections, the Association of Paroling Authorities International, or the American Probation and Parole Association.

Present law provides that each member shall complete a minimum of eight hours of training annually, which shall be provided for in the annual budget of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. The annual training course shall be developed using the training components consistent with those offered by the National Institute of Corrections or American Probation and Parole Association and shall offer classes regarding the following topics:

- (1) A review and analysis of the effectiveness of the assessment tool used by the parole agents.
- (2) A review of the department's progress toward public safety goals.
- (3) The use of data in decision making.
- (4) Any information regarding promising and evidence-based practices offered in the corrections related and crime victim dynamics field.

Proposed law changes present law to add the Association of Paroling Authorities International to the development requirements of the annual training. Changes the class topics to:

- (1) Data-driven decision making.
- (2) Evidence based practices.
- (3) Stakeholder collaboration.
- (4) Recidivism reduction.

Present law provides that the committee may grant parole with two votes of a three member panel, or, if the number exceeds a three member panel, a majority vote of those present if, among other specified conditions, the following conditions are met:

- (1) The offender has not committed any disciplinary offenses in the 12 consecutive months prior to the parole eligibility date.
- (2) The offender has completed the mandatory minimum of 100 hours of pre-release programming in accordance with present law.

Proposed law retains present law but requires that disciplinary offenses be classified as "major" for purposes of parole eligibility denial and provides that the requirement of pre-release programming will be considered if such programming is available at the facility where the offender is incarcerated.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 15:574.2(A)(3), (8), and (9)(a) and (b), and (C)(2)(b) and (c))