

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2273
Version:	CCR B
Request Number:	8981
Author:	Rep. West (J)
Date:	5/21/2019
Impact:	DOC: \$300,000-\$777,200
Pardon and Parole Board: increase in workload	

Research Analysis

The Conference Committee Substitute to HB 2273 allows the Pardon and Parole Board to establish a distinct accelerated parole process, or an alternative, for inmates who are within six months of discharge. If the Pardon and Parole Board denies parole, the Board shall state on the record the reason for the denial. If the Board denies parole for any person convicted of a crime other than an 85% crime, the Board is to suggest a course of remediation for the inmate in preparation for the next parole consideration. Any person granted administrative parole is to be released or proceed immediately to any applicable consecutive sentence. An inmate is not allowed to waive parole consideration or a recommendation for parole. Beginning November 1, 2019, the paroling authority may revoke all or any portion of the parole. The measure allows persons on probation or parole to earn discharge credits. If a parolee has committed a new criminal offense, absconded, or committed any violation of the specialized sex offender rules, the Department of Corrections is to issue a warrant for arrest.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

HB 2273 upon review and with consultation from the Pardon and Parole Board and the Department of Corrections (DOC), the measure is estimated to present a cost to both agencies. DOC estimates the FY-20 cost to range between \$300,000 and \$766,200.

According to the Department:

DOC's current offender management system cannot accommodate the awarding, time calculation or record keeping of two types of earned discharge credits for each term of supervision or one type of discharge credits for each term of parole. Should this bill become law, DOC will have to either (a) pay a vendor to provide this service for the DOC or (2) DOC will have to develop an application outside of the existing offender management system to meet the requirements of the legislation.

DOC has communicated with the vendor who currently manages DOC supervision fee collection. The vendor states their product can accommodate the requirements of this legislation at a cost of \$2/offender/month. Based on today's count of applicable offenders (31,925), the cost to DOC for this function would be \$766,200 per year. If the number of applicable offenders changes the cost to DOC will change accordingly.

If DOC develops an application to perform these functions cost to DOC is estimated to be \$300,000

Both avenues require lead time to develop and implement the technology required to fulfill the requirements of the legislation. It is anticipated that lead time will be between six and 12 months, therefore it is recommended that the implementation of this bill be delayed by a period of six months if the decision is to fund purchase of the service and one year if the decision is to fund DOC development of the function.

While DOC has embarked upon development of a replacement for the current, aged offender management system, the functionality required to implement this legislation is not expected to be in place for several years.

The stipulation in the measure that does not allow offenders to waive considerations or recommendations for parole will increase the workload for the agency. This increases the number of applications the Board has to review by 67%. This most likely requires a substantial increase in FTEs for the agency. The Pardon and Parole Board is currently analyzing the measure for more specific fiscal information.

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Other Considerations

None.