

## **BILL SUMMARY**

1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB1968</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>CS</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>13257</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Williams</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>3/10/2025</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>PPB FY26: \$421,000</b>
	<b>PPB FY27 and onward: \$673,404.80</b>

### **Research Analysis**

The committee substitute to HB 1968 allows the Pardon and Parole Board to employ alternate members to serve on the Board. The Chair of the Pardon and Parole Board may assign alternate members to serve in the absence of a regular member and such alternate members shall have all the powers and authority of a regular Pardon and Parole Board member when so assigned.

Alternate members of the Board shall be appointed as follows:

1. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and shall have a minimum of not less than five (5) years of experience as a former prosecutor;
2. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Court of Appeals and shall have a minimum of:
  - a. not less than five (5) years of experience as a former public defender, or
  - b. not less than ten (10) years of experience handling felony criminal cases as a defense attorney;
3. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor and shall be a former judge of the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals or a former judge of a district court who presided over a criminal court docket;
4. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor and shall be a licensed mental health professional with expertise in offender rehabilitation; and
5. One alternate member of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor and shall have a minimum of not less than five (5) years of experience as a parole officer or corrections officer.

The measure also makes members of the Pardon and Parole Board regular full-time employees with an annual salary of \$85,000. Alternate members are to be paid \$42,500 per year.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

### **Fiscal Analysis**

The CS to HB1968 sets forth provisions and salaries for alternative membership on the Pardon & Parole Board (PPB), and raises salaries for existing members of the Board. Officials with the PPB have provided the following information:

The increases in salary and benefits for five full-time members, and five new part-time employees would total \$421,000 for FY26 (Nov25 – June26), and annually \$631,500 thereafter. This is based on benefit costs for ten full-time employees, eight months of increased salary for the five existing members (from \$22,800/yr to \$85,000/yr), and eight months of salary for the alternative members (\$42,500/yr). Estimates for office space for five full-time members would

increase annual costs by an additional \$33,404.80 to \$42,404.80, depending on if the PPB is able to acquire space at its current location or if relocation is necessary. The PPB would seek funding for additional support staff in future budget requests, depending on the needs of the agency and board members.

Therefore, in its current form, HB1968 is anticipated to have a total impact of \$421,000 to the PPB in FY26 at the pro-rated cost (based on the bill's effective date) for new/increased salaries and benefits for board members. For FY27 and onward, the total annual cost to administer salaries, benefits, and new office space is estimated to be at least \$673,404.80 before the hiring of additional support staff.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.