

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1st Session of the 53rd Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SJR25</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Engrossed</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Representative Faught</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>3/25/2011</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Estimated Cost Savings – DOC \$3.3 Million Annually</b>

**Research Analysis**

Engrossed SJR 25 sends to a vote of the people a proposed amendment to the State Constitution that would give the Pardon and Parole Board the power to grant parole for nonviolent offenses and clarifies that a full and complete pardon by the Governor effectively restores any lost or diminished civil rights to the person unless the person's civil rights were lost or diminished for another criminal offense for which a full pardon has not been received. Finally, the amendment would require the Pardon and Parole Board to report the number of paroles granted annually to the Legislature.

Prepared By: Marcia Goff

**Fiscal Analysis**

Engrossed SJR25 authorizes the Pardon and Parole Board to grant parole to nonviolent offenders without the consent of the Governor. This action will allow nonviolent parolees to be released earlier than they are currently and save the Department of Corrections (DOC) the cost of housing these offenders while awaiting approval from the Governor.

According to the Pardon & Parole Board, approximately 1,200 non-violent offenders are recommended for parole annually. The process typically takes about 90 days after the Board recommendation before the offender is released. SJR25 would shorten that process by approximately 60 days. With average daily prison costs of \$46/day per offender, SJR25 would save approximately \$2,760 per offender, or \$3.3 million annually.

Prepared By: Marilyn Anderson

**Other Considerations**

None