

**Bill Summary**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 57<sup>th</sup> Legislature

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|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Bill No.:</b>    | <b>SB 616</b>     |
| <b>Version:</b>     | <b>INT</b>        |
| <b>Request No.:</b> | <b>1301</b>       |
| <b>Author:</b>      | <b>Sen. Jech</b>  |
| <b>Date:</b>        | <b>01/26/2019</b> |

**Bill Analysis**

SB 616 requires the Pardon and Parole Board to state on the record the reason for a denial of parole. If the Board denies parole to a person convicted of an 85% crime, the Board must suggest remedial actions for the inmate in preparation for the next parole consideration.

Additionally, the measure modifies eligibility for parole for prisoners with consecutive sentences. Eligibility will be determined by combining consecutive sentences to arrive at an aggregate term of all sentences imposed. The measure also defines “technical violation” and “risk and needs assessment.”

The measure also creates a program that allows offenders to earn credit for early release from supervision and the overall term of the sentence. For every month of compliance, the supervising authority shall grant discharge credits equal to thirty days. Fifteen days will be awarded to an offender for compliance if they are serving a term of probation. Persons convicted of domestic assault or a violent crime are not eligible for these credits. Supervising bodies are directed to develop policies towards these credit programs and maintain records for a certain period of time.

The Department of Corrections is further directed to implement a matrix of sanctions and incentives to address behavior committed by parolees and probationers who are being supervised by the Department. The matrix will be used to guide punishments for violating terms of parole or supervision and reward compliance with credits. The Department must implement policies and procedures to conduct hearings related to technical violations as well. The hearings must be conducted within twenty days of issuing the summons. The Pardon and Parole Board may forward parole decisions to the Governor. The Governor may revoke parole for technical violations, but the measure prescribes maximum terms of imprisonment.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor

## **Fiscal Analysis**

FY20: See comments

Full year impact: See comments

The denial and remediation aspect of the bill will lengthen the number of days required for board meetings. It's likely that aggregating cases will also increase the amount of time before an inmate becomes eligible for parole.

Prepared by: Pardon and Parole Board