

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-503

AN ACT CONCERNING SENTENCING OF AND PAROLE ELIGIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHOSE OFFENSE WAS COMMITTED WHEN SUCH INDIVIDUAL WAS UNDER THE AGE OF TWENTY-SIX YEARS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Cost	505,000	500,000
Department of Correction (Board of Pardons and Parole)	GF - Potential Cost	None	See Below
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Potential Cost	None	See Below
Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Savings	None	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes changes to laws on the (1) alternate parole eligibility rules for certain young offenders and (2) sentencing of a young person for a class A or B felony. These changes result in (1) a cost to the Judicial Department of \$505,000 in FY 27 and \$500,000 in FY 28, (2) a potential cost to the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits beginning in FY 28, and (3) a potential savings to the Department of Correction for reduced incarceration beginning in FY 28. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender

¹ The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active hazardous duty employee fringe benefit cost is 50.54% of payroll in FY 27.

for the year is \$3,300.²

The cost to the Judicial Department depends on the number of additional forensic evaluations that would need to be conducted as part of pre-sentencing investigations. It is estimated an additional 100 evaluations would be required as a result of this bill, at a cost of about \$5,000 each. The Judicial Department will also be required to spend up to \$5,000 in FY 27 to update its reference materials relating to adolescent and young adult psychological and brain development.

The potential cost to the Board of Pardons and Paroles depends on the extent to which the board will need to hold more hearings per month to accommodate an increase in parole applications. If the number of additional hearings is great enough, the board may need to hire additional parole officers to interview applicants, conduct risk assessments, and complete comprehensive summaries that provide board members with information regarding an applicant's criminal, social, and correctional history, as well as details of their current offense(s). The annual starting salary for a parole officer is \$78,931, requiring estimated fringe benefits of \$39,892. Because these hearings require a one-year notice to various parties, the fiscal impact for this provision will not begin until FY 28.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of additional forensic evaluations required and the number of inmates granted parole. The number of inmates eligible for parole hearings under this bill is expected to decrease after the first year of hearings.

² Inmate marginal savings is based on decreased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.). This amount does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these expenses would only be realized if a unit or facility closed. If this bill results in a large enough reduction in inmate population to allow for closing one or more units, the estimated marginal savings would be about \$12,500 per person.