

**SENATE, No. 1831**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**214th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MARCH 22, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Senator JOHN A. GIRGENTI**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Blue Ribbon Panel to Review New Jersey’s Inmate Policy.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/1/2010)**

S1831 CUNNINGHAM, GIRGENTI

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1 AN ACT establishing the “Blue Ribbon Panel to Review New  
2 Jersey’s Inmate Policy” and repealing section 11 of P.L.2009,  
3 c.329.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. (New section) a. There is hereby established the “Blue  
9 Ribbon Panel to Review New Jersey’s Inmate Policy.”

10 (1) The panel shall be comprised of six members who are  
11 residents of this State and who shall have served as judges,  
12 prosecutors or public defenders, but are not currently serving as  
13 judges, prosecutors, or public defenders. The members of the panel  
14 shall be appointed by the Governor, without regard to the  
15 appointees’ political affiliations, and shall serve during the  
16 existence of the panel. Vacancies shall be filled by the Governor.  
17 The members shall be subject to removal by the Governor at any  
18 time for good and sufficient cause.

19 (2) The panel shall organize as soon as possible after the  
20 appointment of its members. The members shall elect one of the  
21 members to serve as chair and vice-chair and the chair may appoint  
22 a secretary, who need not be a member of the panel.

23 (3) The members of the panel shall serve without compensation,  
24 but shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary and reasonable  
25 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties within  
26 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the  
27 commission for its purposes.

28 (4) The panel shall be entitled to accept the assistance and  
29 services of such employees of any State, county, or municipal  
30 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as may be made  
31 available to it and to employ such legal, stenographic, technical,  
32 and clerical assistance and incur such expenses as may be necessary  
33 in order to perform its duties within the limits of funds appropriated  
34 or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

35 b. It shall be the duty of the panel to comprehensively review  
36 and analyze data on the characteristics of the inmate population in  
37 this State’s correctional facilities. These characteristics shall  
38 include, but not be limited to age, infirmity, ethnicity, gender,  
39 health treatment and mental health treatment received, offense  
40 committed, race, participation in educational and vocational  
41 programs, term of incarceration, and any other characteristic  
42 identified by the panel. Data may be obtained from any source  
43 deemed appropriate by the panel, including the Department of  
44 Corrections, the State Parole Board, or any other State department,  
45 board, bureau, commission, or agency, or any other governmental  
46 or nongovernmental entity.

47 c. The panel shall report any legislative or other  
48 recommendations concerning correctional policy based on the

1 review and analysis of the inmate population data pursuant to  
2 subsection b. of this section to the Legislature and the Governor  
3 within two years of the date of appointment of its members. The  
4 panel shall expire after its report is issued.

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6 2. Section 11 of P.L.2009, c.329 (C.30:4-123.96) is repealed.

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8 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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13 This bill would establish a six-member panel known as the “Blue  
14 Ribbon Panel to Review New Jersey’s Inmate Policy.” The panel  
15 would consist of former judges, prosecutors, or public defenders as  
16 appointed by the Governor.

17 The panel is charged with comprehensively reviewing and  
18 analyzing data on the characteristics of the inmate population in this  
19 State’s correctional facilities. The bill provides that these  
20 characteristics shall include but not be limited to age, infirmity,  
21 ethnicity, gender, health treatment and mental health treatment  
22 received, offense committed, race, participation in educational and  
23 vocational programs, term of incarceration, and any other  
24 characteristic identified by the panel. The panel is authorized to  
25 obtain the data from various sources, such as the Department of  
26 Corrections, the State Parole Board, or other State department, or  
27 from any other governmental or nongovernmental entity.

28 The panel is required to report to the Legislature and the  
29 Governor within two years of the date of appointment of its  
30 members any legislative or other recommendations concerning  
31 correctional policy based on the review and analysis of the inmate  
32 population data. The panel is to expire after it issues its report.

33 This bill would repeal section 11 of P.L.2009, c.329, which  
34 created a “Blue Ribbon Panel for Review of Long-Term Prisoners’  
35 Parole Eligibility” in the State Parole Board. That panel was  
36 charged with considering if prisoners who had been incarcerated  
37 and served more than 20 years of their sentences should be eligible  
38 for parole, and with submitting any recommendations for parole to  
39 the appropriate parole board panel.