

ASSEMBLY, No. 25

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 1997

By Assemblymen AZZOLINA and BLEE

1 AN ACT establishing a parole advisory board on substance abuse
2 treatment and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 30 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. There is hereby established a Parole Advisory Board on
9 Substance Abuse Treatment in, but not of, the Bureau of Parole.
10 Notwithstanding the allocation of the board within the bureau, the
11 bureau or any employee thereof shall not exercise any control over the
12 board. The advisory board shall consist of 21 members. It shall
13 include in its membership the Chief of the Bureau of Parole in the
14 Department of Corrections or his designee, who shall serve ex officio;
15 one member representing each of the following organizations and
16 groups, who shall be appointed by the Governor: the State Parole
17 Board, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health and
18 Senior Services, the Office of the Governor, the Administrative Office
19 of the Courts, the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, the New
20 Jersey Chapter of the American Correctional Association, the County
21 Prosecutors Association of New Jersey, the Sheriffs' Association of
22 New Jersey, the New Jersey Wardens Association, the New Jersey
23 State Association of Chiefs of Police, the American Parole and
24 Probation Association; the community at large, treatment providers,
25 victims' rights groups and former inmates who have successfully
26 completed parole. Two members of the Senate, who shall not be of
27 the same political party and who shall serve during their terms of
28 office, shall be appointed by the President of the Senate. Two
29 members of the General Assembly, who shall not be of the same
30 political party and who shall serve during their terms of office, shall be
31 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

32 Members of the board shall be appointed with the advice and
33 consent of the Senate, and serve a term of three years, except for the
34 initial gubernatorial appointees, four of whom shall serve for two
35 years and four of whom shall serve for four years. Each member shall
36 serve for the term of appointment and until a successor is appointed.
37 A member may be reappointed to the board. A member appointed to

1 fill a vacancy occurring in the membership of the board for any reason
2 other than the expiration of the term shall serve a term of appointment
3 for the unexpired term only. All vacancies shall be filled in the same
4 manner as the original appointments. Any appointed member of the
5 board, except the legislative members, may be removed from the
6 board by the Governor, for cause, after a hearing, and may be
7 suspended by the Governor pending the completion of the hearing.
8 Legislative members may be removed for cause by the leader of their
9 respective houses. Motions and resolutions may be adopted by the
10 board at a board meeting by an affirmative vote of not less than 11
11 members.

12 Members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall
13 be entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses of serving on the
14 board, to the extent that funds are available for this purpose.

15 The board shall organize as soon as possible after the appointment
16 of its members. The members shall select a chair from among their
17 number.

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19 2. It shall be the duty of the advisory board to review and comment
20 on the development and implementation of drug and alcohol treatment
21 programs for inmates and parolees, taking into consideration research
22 conducted by the Bureau of Parole. The board shall sponsor
23 conferences with criminal justice administrators and community
24 members, including treatment providers, in order to educate all
25 interested parties in the importance of relapse prevention and
26 treatment for specialized cases, and to address issues such as lowering
27 costs, developing protocols for confidentiality, identifying the type and
28 amount of treatment that should be available, and promoting
29 community involvement in the reintegration process. The advisory
30 board may make recommendations to the Commissioner of
31 Corrections, the Parole Board, the Legislature and the Governor in
32 these matters.

33 The advisory board shall meet at least semiannually and may hold
34 hearings at any place or places it shall designate during the sessions or
35 recesses of the Legislature. The Bureau of Parole shall have primary
36 responsibility for providing staff services and other necessary support
37 to the board. The board may also request the assistance and services
38 of the employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,
39 bureau, commission, task force or agency as it may require and as may
40 be available to it for its purposes. The board may, within the limits of
41 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes,
42 employ stenographic and clerical assistants and incur travel and
43 miscellaneous expenses necessary for the performance of its duties.

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45 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill establishes a Parole Advisory Board on Substance Abuse Treatment in, but not of, the Bureau of Parole. The board would review and comment on the development and implementation of drug and alcohol treatment programs for inmates and parolees and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Corrections, the Parole Board, the Governor and the Legislature concerning the adoption such programs. It would also sponsor conferences with criminal justice administrators and community members, including treatment providers, on a variety of related issues.

The panel would consist of 21 members, representing a wide variety of agencies and organizations that have an interest in treatment programs for inmates and parolees. It will include two members of each house of the Legislature appointed by their respective leaders. The board would, from among its members, select a chairman or chairwoman and vice chairman or chairwoman.

In the course of reviewing and commenting on the development and implementation of drug and alcohol treatment programs for inmates and parolees, the board would be encouraged to consider the Bureau of Parole's research findings in these matters. It would utilize the staff resources of the Bureau of Parole and meet at least semiannually.

This bill is based on a recommendation of the Study Commission on Parole.



Establishes a parole advisory board on substance abuse treatment.