

SENATE, No. 2203

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 1997

By Senator KOSCO

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

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

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

1 appointed to fill a vacancy occurring in the membership of the board
2 for any reason other than the expiration of the term shall serve a term
3 of appointment for the unexpired term only. All vacancies shall be
4 filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Any appointed
5 member of the board, except the legislative members, may be removed
6 from the board by the Governor, for cause, after a hearing, and may
7 be 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 supervision standards,
21 drug and alcohol treatment programs for inmates and parolees, and
22 special assignments as requested by the Commissioner of Corrections,
23 taking into consideration research conducted by the Bureau of Parole.
24 The board shall sponsor conferences with criminal justice
25 administrators and community members, including treatment
26 providers, in order to educate all interested parties in the importance
27 of relapse prevention and treatment for specialized cases, and to
28 address issues such as lowering costs, developing protocols for
29 confidentiality, identifying the type and amount of treatment that
30 should be available, and promoting community involvement in the
31 reintegration process. The advisory board may make
32 recommendations to the Commissioner of Corrections, the Parole
33 Board, the Legislature and the Governor in these matters.

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

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46 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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3 This bill establishes a Parole Advisory Board in, but not of, the
4 Bureau of Parole. The board would review and comment on the
5 development and implementation of supervision standards, drug and
6 alcohol treatment programs for inmates and parolees, and any special
7 assignments requested by the Commissioner of Corrections. The
8 advisory board is to pass on any recommendations it may have on
9 these matters to the Commissioner of Corrections, the Parole Board,
10 the Governor and the Legislature. It would also sponsor conferences
11 with criminal justice administrators and community members, including
12 treatment providers, on a variety of related issues.

13 The panel would consist of 23 members, representing a wide variety
14 of agencies and organizations that have an interest in supervision and
15 treatment programs for inmates and parolees. It will include two
16 members of each house of the Legislature appointed by their
17 respective leaders. The board would, from among its members, select
18 a chairman and vice-chairman.

19 In the course of reviewing and commenting on its findings and
20 recommendations, the board would be encouraged to consider the
21 Bureau of Parole's research findings regarding these matters. It would
22 utilize the staff resources of the Bureau of Parole and meet at least
23 semiannually.

24 This bill is based on a recommendation of the Governor's Study
25 Commission on Parole.

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30 Establishes a parole advisory board on substance abuse treatment.