



*State of New Jersey*  
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**Chairman James Plousis  
Budget Testimony**

**Senate Budget Committee  
April 13, 2011**

The New Jersey State Parole Board supervises more than 16,000 offenders annually, including nearly 6,000 sex offenders. Using a variety of law enforcement tools including Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) as well as several different residential and community based programs, the State Parole Board supervises offenders that are released from the Department of Corrections until they have completed their parole obligations. The State Parole Board also conducts more than 33,000 hearings annually as part of the release process.

The State Parole Board's Fiscal Year 12 Proposed Budget totals \$101.6 million, a decrease of \$1 million from the Fiscal Year 11 adjusted appropriation. The reduction of \$1 million includes salary attrition savings, anticipated contract savings from electronic monitoring services, and an increase for a new parole officer class.

The State Parole Board is anticipating hiring 33 laid-off officers from municipalities. These 33 officers will closely address the possible attrition of staff.

The State Parole Board is partnering with the United States Marshals Service to pool resources and track down wanted fugitives. This partnership allows law enforcement agencies to apprehend fugitives across state lines and outside of the United States. The United States Marshals Service is also providing the State Parole Board with vehicles, office space, and additional resources.

Even with these advances, the Parole Board continues to look for savings across the agency. For example, the State Parole Board is currently reviewing all leases/building sites to determine what sites may be consolidated to improve operational efficiency and reduce costs. The agency continues to look at all operations with eye towards creating a more efficient, less costly state agency.

The utilization of Community Programs funding are on target this year at close to 100%. In addition, the cases generated by what we refer to as Statutory Early Release (P.L.2009, c.330) have been absorbed into the State Parole Board's existing programs without additional resources.

Diversions from the Parole Violator Assessment and Treatment program continue to allow for the continuation of institutional decreases in populations. The State Parole Board is currently

designing and developing pilot programs for new or expanded initiatives to meet critical needs in areas where our populations impact multiple government agencies. For example, in September, 2010 the Parole Board and the Department of Corrections initiated a Pilot Project whereby the Department of Corrections agreed to return technical parole violators housed in the Camden County Jail to the Central Reception and Assignment Facility for the offender's parole revocation hearing. The goal of the project was to streamline the parole revocation process while at the same time alleviate the financial costs incurred by the Department of Corrections in reimbursing the county jail for housing the offender pending the revocation hearing.

Based upon the success of the Pilot Project, in January 2011 it was expanded to all 21 counties throughout the State.

Prior to the Pilot Project, a technical parole violator would remain in the county jail for anywhere between 30-60 days pending a revocation hearing and the formal parole revocation decision prior to being transported to the Department of Corrections. Under the new system, the average length of stay in the county jail has been reduced to just 6 days.

As of April 8, 2011, the Parole Board has authorized the return of 622 technical parole violators since the inception of this project.

Presently, the State Parole Board participates in 13 existing Re-Entry Task Forces that cover multiple counties. We also partner with Opportunity Reconnect in four counties. Opportunity Reconnect is a one-stop center for individuals re-entering society from prison. These centers have case managers who refer individuals to services that address issues they may encounter. We welcome expansion of these types of initiatives statewide, and will help provide technical assistance in their development, in support of our population.

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Committee today. I invite your questions.