



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 411

PRINTERS NO. 967

PRIME SPONSOR: Browne

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 411 amends the Judicial Code (Title 42) and the Prisons and Parole Code (Title 61) concerning parole and post-release parole supervision responsibilities of the PA Board of Probation and Parole and the PA Department of Corrections. It would take effect immediately.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 411 amends Title 42 (Judicial Code) and Title 61 (Prisons and Parole Code) to shift post release parole and certain probation supervision responsibilities from the PA Board of Probation and Parole to the PA Department of Corrections and merges various operations of the Board with the Department.

Senate Bill 411 changes the name of the PA Board of Probation and Parole to the PA Parole Board and makes numerous changes to Title 42 to reflect the change. It also redefines the Parole Board's role from "the administration of the probation and parole laws" to "granting and revoking paroles to certain offenders within this Commonwealth."

The bill deletes current law defining the duties and authority of the Board's Parole Officers. At the same time, the bill establishes the position of "Agent" within the Department and establishes similar duties and authority.

In addition to making the core change of parole supervision authority, the bill makes numerous ancillary and other changes to current law regarding parole, parole supervision, and corrections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Many of the requirements of SB 411 have already been implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Department of Corrections, Board of Probation and Parole, and Board of Pardons. As a result of the MOU, the Commonwealth has already achieved \$12.1million in savings and operational efficiencies. In addition, according to the department, the consolidation has provided improved treatment and caseload management, enhanced public safety, reduced costs, and better accountability.

The intent of this legislation is to statutorily merge the Department of Corrections, Board of Probation and Parole, and Board of Pardons in order to provide a permanent reliable infrastructure and resolve employment, appropriations and fiscal-related issues. Currently, some efficiencies cannot be accomplished due to certain bargaining agreement constraints.

Enactment of this legislation will result in an estimated savings of an additional \$5.228 million in 2021-22 and \$3.597 million in 2022-23 due to State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) furloughs and a decline in overtime for transportation-related duties.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 25, 2021

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.