

## 2014-16 Executive Progress Report

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security  
Virginia Parole Board

### At A Glance

The Virginia Parole Board's mission is to protect public safety and contribute to a fair and effective justice system by ensuring that persons who remain a threat to society remain incarcerated and those who have been sufficiently punished and no longer present a risk are released to become productive citizens.

Staffing 0 Salaried Employees, 0 Contracted Employees, 0 Authorized, and 0 Wage Employees.

Financials Budget FY 2015, \$1.40 million, 100.00% from the General Fund.

Trends	↑ Number of Parole Decisions	Key Perf Areas	➔ Number of days for decision
	↑ Cost per Parole Decision	Productivity	➔ Cost per decision
	➔ Meetings with Victims	Legend	↑ Improving, ↓ Worsening, ➔ Maintaining
Legend	↑ Increase, ↓ Decrease, ➔ Steady		

For more information on administrative key, and productivity measures, go to [www.vaperforms.virginia.gov](http://www.vaperforms.virginia.gov)

### Background and History

#### Agency Background Statement

The Virginia Parole Board was established by law in 1942 and is composed of five members appointed by the Governor. The primary mission of the Parole Board is to protect public safety and contribute to a fair and effective justice system by considering the possible impact on public safety created by the release of an offender. The Parole Board also considers the interests of society in determining whether justice has been served, the impact of the crime on victims, the extent of the offender's rehabilitation, and his/her possible contribution to society if paroled. Empowered by Virginia Code Section 53.1-136, the Board makes the following decisions:

- to conditionally release inmates who are parole eligible,
- to revoke parole and post release supervision of those under supervision found to be in violation of the terms of their release, and
- to investigate, prepare reports and advise the Governor, when requested, on Executive Clemencies.

The Board has the legal responsibility to act on geriatric requests for conditional release under Virginia Code Section 53.1 - 40.01.

Va Code Section 53.1-134 - Creation of the Parole Board

Va Code Section 53.1- 136 - Powers and Duties of Board

Va Code Section 53.1-155 - notification/input

#### Major Products and Services

The Parole Board primarily provides services to inmate families, victims, attorneys and other parties interested in the release of an offender. The agency is responsible for:

- Decisions on parole applications from offenders
- Decisions on parole eligible offenders
- Decisions on parole revocations
- Recommendations to Governor on clemency petitions
- Decisions on appeals relating to "three-time loser" law
- Conducting appointments with victims
- Notifications to victims of possible parole grants

- Meetings with inmates' families for parole input

## Customers

### Customer Summary

The primary function of the Parole Board is to make decisions with regard to the granting of parole. In January, 1995, Virginia abolished parole for all crimes committed after January 1, 1995. Regardless of the abolition of parole, the Virginia Parole Board anticipates a growth in its customer base when the current parole eligible population of 3,321 increases to a total of 5,081 by 2016. Although the population of parole eligible offenders will decline after 2016, the number of geriatric cases will continue to increase. Clemency petitions are also expected to increase because individuals sentenced under the no-parole law have no recourse except to seek clemency.

The Parole Board's customer base includes parole violators who are in violation of the conditions of their parole or post-release supervision and determines which individuals should be returned to custody and which should be continued on supervision. Consideration is given to the nature of the crime for which they are on supervision, whether the violation is a new criminal conviction or a technical violation and the amount of time left to serve.

The Board also provides services to victims and inmate advocates by scheduling meetings with a member of the Board prior to the decision on an offenders case. This allows interested parties to express concerns or to advocate on the offenders suitability for parole. If an offender is granted parole, each victim is contacted personally to inform them of the status of the Board's decision and to allow them an opportunity for input before the Board's decision is made final and reported to the offender.

### Customer Table

Predefined Group	User Defined Group	Number Served Annually	Potential Number of Annual Customers	Projected Customer Trend
Inmate	Clemency petitioners	0	0	Increase
Inmate	Discretionary parole eligible inmates	3,167	0	Increase
Inmate	Geriatric release petitioners	350	0	Increase
Inmate	Inmates eligible for parole annually including discretionary parole and geriatric release	3,517	0	Increase
Probationer	Parole/Post-release supervision violation cases	0	0	Stable
Victim	Victims seeking meeting (appointment) with Board member	0	0	Increase
Victim	Victims to be contacted annually	0	0	Stable

## Finance and Performance Management

### Finance

#### Financial Summary

Funding provided to the Parole Board in the Appropriation Act comes from the general fund. In addition to the general fund appropriation, the Board's budget includes funding from a victim/witness grant made by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

#### Fund Sources

Fund Code	Fund Name	FY 2015	FY 2016
0100	General Fund	\$1,397,033	\$1,397,297

#### Revenue Summary

The Virginia Parole Board does not generate revenues from service related activities.

### Performance

#### Performance Highlights

**PAROLE** – The function of the Parole Board is to make decisions regarding the granting of discretionary parole. There are Currently 4,300 inmates eligible for parole, a number that will increase and peak at 6,800 in 2016.

**REVOCATIONS** – The Parole Board reviews those who are in violation of the conditions of their parole or post-release supervision and determines which individuals should be returned to custody and which should be continued on supervision. There are approximately 300 violators reviewed annually.

**GERIATRIC PETITIONS** – Inmates who have reached age 60 and served 10 years or who are age 65 and have served 5 years may petition the Board for geriatric release. There are approximately 666 inmates who meet these minimum requirements. The total geriatric population is increasing. Approximately 20% of the eligible geriatric offenders petition for release each year.

CLEMENCY PETITIONS – At the request of the Governor, the Board investigates the facts and circumstances of the original crime and other relevant information and makes a recommendation to the Governor. The Board evaluates approximately 700 petitions annually.

APPEALS OF 3X LOSER STATUS – A person convicted of three murders, rapes or armed robberies that were not part of a common scheme or plan is not eligible for parole. The decision as to whether a person falls under the “3x loser” statute is made by the Department of Corrections and may be appealed to the Parole Board.

VICTIM ISSUES – The Parole Board seeks victim input prior to releasing any inmate on discretionary parole. This effort is accomplished by attempting to locate the victims and families to obtain information about the impact of the crime.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – The Parole Board offers both victims and inmate families the opportunity to meet with a member of the Board to personally express their feelings about the inmate’s possible parole. After the Board appointment, each victim is contacted personally to inform them of the Board’s decision.

**Selected Measures**

Measure ID	Measure	Alternative Name	Estimated Trend
76635201.001.001	Average number of days between the date of hearing and decision.	Number of days for decision	Maintaining
76635201.002.001	Meetings (appointments) with victims	Meetings (appointments) with victims	
76635201.002.002	Input from victims of inmates' pending parole in granted status	Input from victims of inmates' pending parole in granted status	
76635201.003.002	Cost per Virginia Parole Board decisions.	Cost per decision	Maintaining

**Key Risk Factors**

Offenders released on parole pose a risk to public safety, especially considering that the majority of offenders eligible for parole have committed violent crimes. In the process of making the decisions, the Board must weigh numerous competing factors, including the interests of society in seeing that justice is served for the commission of a criminal offense; the interests of victims of crimes; whether public safety would be compromised by the release of an offender; and the interests of the offender and the extent of his/her rehabilitation. The decisions must be made as expeditiously as possible so as to minimize uncertainty from inmates, victims, and inmate advocates.

The Parole Board must also consider the aging inmate population, as the costs involved to taxpayers for medical services will increase. The Board must give this consideration but never at the expense of public safety.

**Agency Statistics**

**Statistics Summary**

The following table reflects the number of inmates reviewed and decisions rendered annually by the Parole Board. Statistics also included are contacts made telephonically and through Board appointments with victims and advocates of parole.

**Statistics Table**

Description	Value
Cases reviewed for parole	3,579
Geriatric Cases	129
Revocation cases	358
Board Appointments	398
Pardons/Clemencies	590
Victim contacts	1,957

**Management Discussion**

**General Information About Ongoing Status of Agency**

Parole eligible inmates receive a personal interview by a Parole Examiner; however, non-parole eligible geriatric offenders receive only a “desk” review. The Board is currently exploring ways in which Board members can interview individual offenders as part of the consideration process. The agency is in the process of setting up an office at Deerfield Correctional Center where the majority of the geriatric offenders are housed. This will enable the Board to conduct thorough investigations of these cases on-site and offer the same consideration process as the parole eligible offenders.

The Board members frequently meet personally with offenders to gain insight as to an offender's suitability for parole prior to casting a vote of their case.

The Parole Board Chairman or other Board Member personally contacts crime victims for notification of a not grant or grant decision.

### **Information Technology**

The Department of Corrections maintains a single Information System (VirginiaCORIS) that stores all offender related data. The Parole Board's module was recently integrated and is an integral part of this system, as the Board relies on much of the offender data for its decision-making process. The Board has, and will continue working with the CORIS Project Management Team to resolve current system issues and efforts to enhance user productivity.

### **Workforce Development**

The Board encourages staff to increase its knowledge through training and in visiting facilities and programs.

### **Physical Plant**

The Virginia Parole Board is strategically located within the Department of Corrections' Headquarters. The facility is well-maintained and centrally located offering easy access for interested parties to meet with Board members. This allows direct contact with Department of Corrections units such as Classification & Records, Parole Release, Medical Unit, etc., as well as easy access to DOC records.

The Board holds Board appointments with victims and inmate families in other areas of the state in order to accommodate them and make travel easier.

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