

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
 First Reader

House Bill 1419 (Delegate Rosenberg)
 Appropriations

Correctional Services – Division of Parole and Probation

This bill expresses the intent of the General assembly that, in accordance with the risk and needs assessment administered by the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP), the active caseload ratio for parole and probation agents may not exceed 30 cases requiring high level supervision, level 1 sexual offender supervision, or violence prevention initiative level supervision per agent. By December 1, 2020, DPP must submit a report on specified information to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by *at least* \$697,700 in FY 2021 to meet the bill’s intent regarding caseload ratios. Future years reflect annualization and ongoing costs. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	697,700	817,100	835,600	864,600	894,600
Net Effect	(\$697,700)	(\$817,100)	(\$835,600)	(\$864,600)	(\$894,600)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: By December 1, 2020, DPP must report to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee and the House Judiciary Committee on:

- the results of research on the effect that properly supported parolees serving as mentors, such as volunteering for organizations such as Safe Streets Baltimore, can have on reducing recidivism rates;
- the results of research on whether the community supervision model, providing greater support to parolees through individually tailored assistance, is more likely to reduce a parolee's return to prison;
- whether parole and probation agents currently have the time and resources to provide supervision in a community-based model;
- the steps that DPP has taken to provide mentorship opportunities to parolees; and
- the steps DPP has taken to implement a community supervision model.

Current Law/Background:

Division of Parole and Probation

Generally, DPP:

- administers a validated screening tool on individuals on parole or mandatory supervision under supervision of DPP;
- administers a risk and needs assessment and develops an individualized case plan for individuals on parole or mandatory supervision who have been screened as moderate or high risk to reoffend;
- supervises individuals on parole or mandatory supervision based on the results of required validated screening tools or risk and needs assessments;
- supervises parolees;
- supervises individuals under mandatory supervision;
- regularly informs the Maryland Parole Commission of the activities of offenders it supervises;
- issues warrants for the retaking of an offender charged with a violation of parole or mandatory supervision; and
- administers the Drinking Driver Monitor Program.

When considering disciplinary action related to the performance of a parole and probation employee, DPP must consider the size of the employee's active caseload and the

classification of the offenders within the employee's active caseload at the time of the event giving rise to the consideration of disciplinary action.

Violence Prevention Initiative

The Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) was implemented in 2007 in response to a finding that approximately 30% of all homicides in Baltimore City involved individuals under adult parole or probation supervision. VPI has since expanded to a statewide initiative.

The initiative focuses DPP's resources on (1) the accurate identification of those offenders with the greatest potential for violent re-offense and (2) the intensive, containment-model approach to the management of these potentially dangerous individuals. DPP uses validated risk and needs screening instruments to classify individuals under supervision upon intake and to determine the appropriate level of supervision to provide for each case. DPP's screening instrument considers criminal history, age, and previous arrests for weapons. First among the factors considered is that the present age of the offender is younger than age 30. Offenders with the highest risk of re-offending are placed into the VPI caseload.

Approximately 1,234 individuals are currently under active VPI supervision. The containment-model approach to supervising VPI offenders involves increased contacts between the offender and agent in conjunction with immediate and consistent responses to violations of the conditions of supervision. Although DPP does not have statutorily mandated caseload levels, in order to accomplish this, DPP has established the VPI caseload size at 30 active cases to 1 agent (30:1). The caseload size for general DPP cases is approximately 90:1.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures for the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services increase by *at least* \$697,677 in fiscal 2021, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2020 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring 12 parole and probation agents and 1 field supervisor to reduce the active caseload ratio for parole and probation agents to meet the bill's stated intent. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- as of February 1, 2020, DPP has 34 parole and probation agents statewide with high supervision caseloads and 1 with a VPI caseload that exceed the 30-case maximum identified in the bill;
- as of February 1, 2020, DPP advises that all agents supervising level 1 sexual offenders have fewer than 30 cases each;
- the number of cases that exceed the maximum ratios are spread throughout the four regions of DPP. The Baltimore Metro Region has 11 agents supervising

521 cases; the Capital Metro Region has 9 agents supervising 429 cases; the East Region has 4 agents supervising 156 cases; and the West Region has 10 agents supervising 483 cases; and

- to meet the maximum ratio, DPP needs a total of 12 parole and probation agents and *at least* 1 field supervisor (5 agents and 1 field supervisor in the Baltimore Region, 4 agents in the Capital Metro Region, 1 agent in the East Region, and 2 agents in the West Region). Because the new agents are located in different regions of the State, DPP may need additional field supervisors.

Positions	13
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$627,916
Operating Expenses	<u>69,761</u>
Minimum FY 2021 State Expenditures	\$697,677

Future year expenditures reflect full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover and ongoing operating expenses.

DPP can submit the required report with existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services;
Department of Legislative Services

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af/lgc

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