

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1646

As Passed House

March 10, 1997

Title: An act relating to the indeterminate sentence review board.

Brief Description: Extending the existence of the indeterminate sentence review board.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Criminal Justice & Corrections (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Ballasiotes, Dickerson and Sullivan).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Criminal Justice & Corrections: 2/18/97 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/10/97, 95-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CORRECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Ballasiotes, Chairman; Benson, Vice Chairman; Koster, Vice Chairman; Quall, Ranking Minority Member; O'Brien, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Blalock; Cairnes; Delvin; Dickerson; Hickel; Mitchell; Robertson and Sullivan.

Staff: Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

Background: The Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) consists of up to seven members appointed by the Governor and ratified by the Legislature. The Governor designates one of the board members to serve as chairperson. Members of the board are prohibited from participating in any other business or profession, or holding a public office during their tenure on the board.

Today, a convicted offender receives a determinate sentence in Washington. However, prior to July 1, 1984, an offender who committed a crime received a indeterminate sentence. During that time span, an offender convicted by a superior court of Washington and sentenced to an institution was placed under the authority of the ISRB.

At least 750 felons in prison and 450 on parole remain under the supervision of the ISRB for release and continued supervision to the end of his or her maximum term, or until granted a final discharge from supervision of the board. The board

establishes the minimum prison sentence, evaluates readiness for parole release, sets conditions of parole release and returns offenders to prison for violations of their conditions of release.

ISRB will cease to exist at midnight, June 30, 1998.

Summary of Bill: Members of the board may participate in other businesses, professions, or hold a public office with prior approval from the executive ethics board.

The existence of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board continues to operate for an additional 10 years. The board will cease to exist on June 30, 2008.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 11, 1997.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Witnesses testified on related bill (House Bill 1179). Over 700 felons remain under the supervision of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board for release and continued supervision to the end of their term. The board should be continued until at least the last felon sentenced prior to 1984 has been granted final discharge. It would not be considered fair to require these offenders to return to court in order to be re-sentenced or to transfer their current supervision sentence to another agency.

Testimony Against: Witness testified on related bill (House Bill 1179). Since Washington no longer uses indeterminate sentencing, the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board should cease to exist. The remaining inmates currently serving prison terms could be given determinate sentences while those offenders that are currently serving parole could be transferred and supervised by community corrections officers.

Testified: Witnesses testified on related bill (House Bill 1179). Lorraine Lee, Governor's staff (pro); Steve Eckstrom, Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates (pro); Kit Bail, Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (pro); and Leta Schattauer, Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (con).