

Pennsylvania Parole Board State Documents

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

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Summary Information

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Scope and Contents

The Pennsylvania Parole Board is an independent correctional agency, authorized by statute to grant parole and to supervise all offenders sentenced by the courts to a maximum sentence of two years or more; to revoke the parole of technical parole violators and those convicted of new crimes; and to release from parole persons under supervision who have served their sentence in compliance with the conditions governing their parole. Guidelines have been established to structure the Board's discretion in making parole decisions, and consideration is given to factors such as the nature of the offense, prior criminal history, employment potential, emotional stability, history of family violence, adjustment to prison, and input from the sentencing judge, prosecuting attorney, and victims, and any other factors that may be relevant. The Board has the authority to revoke parole and return an individual to prison.

The publications of the Pennsylvania Parole Board contain monthly statistical reports and educational guides. Selected topics from these publications include the parole process and parole statistics.

Biographical / Historical

The Parole Board was established by the Act of August 6, 1941, P.L. 861, and amended by the Act of May 27, 1943, P.L. 767; Act 501, December 27, 1965, P.L. 1230; Act 134, October 9, 1986, P.L. 1424; Act 164, December 18, 1996, P.L. 1098; Act 143, December 21, 1998, P.L. 1077; and Act 171, December 21, 1998, P.L. 1298 and codified by Act 33, August 11, 2009, 61 Pa.C.S. §6102-6153. This Act and its subsequent amendments established a uniform parole system and provided for assistance in the improvement of adult probation services in the Commonwealth. The original title "Parole Board" was maintained until 1965, when the Board received the additional task of administering most of the state and local cases of court-awarded probation. The expanded title "Board of Probation and Parole" was created at that time. As established in 1941 and modified in 1943, the Board had power to award and supervise all convicted offenders' paroles. In addition, if both the Board and any trial court sentencing an offender to less than two years imprisonment agreed, the Board assumed the power to supervise such a "special parole." When renamed in 1965, the PBPP was ordered to supervise all probation of offenders sentenced for more than two years, and to assist local probation systems through grants-in-aid and training. By the 1970s, Pennsylvania legislated Sentencing Guidelines for parole. The agency's administration was largely supervised by the Board's secretary until the Office of Probation and Parole Services was created outside the secretariat, as many other internal offices were created: Chief Counsel, Professional Responsibility, Victim's Advocate, Sexual Offenders Assessment

Board, Policy [and] Legislative Affairs, and Administrative Services. On February 16, 2020, Act 115 of 2019 officially changed the name of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole to the Pennsylvania Parole Board. This act also removed the Board's responsibility to enforce all probation laws.

Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Board of Parole (former agency name), Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (former agency name)

Conditions Governing Use

The Monthly Statistics Reports are copyrighted publications, for which the Pennsylvania Parole Board has permitted educational use.

Other Finding Aids

For more information concerning the records of the Pennsylvania Parole Board at the Pennsylvania State Archives, please visit:

<https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=class244>.

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Controlled Access Headings

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