

## **Board of Probation and Parole 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

## Summary Information

**Repository:** Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

**Creator:** Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole

**Title:** Board of Probation and Parole State Documents

**Identifier:** PRO-PAR

**Date:** 1965 - 2020

**Date:** Majority of material found within 2016 - 2018

**Physical Description:** 26 Megabytes (6 PDF files)

**Language of** English

**Materials:**

## Scope and Contents

The Board of Probation and Parole granted parole and supervised all offenders sentenced by the courts to a maximum sentence of two years or more. The Board also revoked the parole of technical parole violators and those convicted of new crimes, and released from parole persons under supervision who served their sentence in compliance with the conditions governing their parole. The Board was also authorized to supervise offenders sentenced by the courts to imprisonment for less than two years where a request is made by the sentencing court, and to supervise offenders sentenced by other states where a request is made under the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision. The Board had the authority to revoke parole and return an individual to prison.

The publications of the Board of Probation and Parole contain annual reports. Selected topics from these publications include prison rape elimination, parole statistics, and yearly agency happenings. The bulk of the current material is dated from 2016 to 2018.

## 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, PL. 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**

Pennsylvania Parole Board (successor agency), Board of Parole (former agency name)

## **Other Finding Aids**

For more information concerning the records of the Board of Probation and Parole 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**

- Probation
- Parole
- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Politics and government  
State government publications