

2024 -- H 7638

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LC004879  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINALS -- CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS -- STATE COMMISSION  
ON PARDONS

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Cruz, J. Lombardi, Place, Chippendale, Ajello,  
Biah, Henries, McEntee, and Batista

Date Introduced: February 15, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 13 of the General Laws entitled "CRIMINALS — CORRECTIONAL  
2 INSTITUTIONS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 10.1

4 STATE COMMISSION ON PARDONS

5 **13-10.1-1. Commission established – Duties.**

6 (a) There is hereby established a commission on pardons to administer the application  
7 process, consider applicants, and ultimately make recommendations to the governor regarding  
8 applicants seeking an executive pardon.

9 (b) The commission shall be responsible for promulgating rules and regulations necessary  
10 for developing an application process for residents seeking to request a pardon, such as:

11 (1) Eligibility standards;

12 (2) Documents and forms that need to be submitted with an application in order to be  
13 considered;

14 (3) Timeline for an applicant to receive a response; and

15 (4) Option for an applicant to appeal the recommendation.

16 (c) The commission shall submit the names of those individuals whom they feel have met  
17 the requirements for a pardon to the governor and shall, per the state constitution, be required to  
18 submit recommended names that the governor would like to pardon to the state senate for advice

1 and consent.

2 **13-10.1-2. Composition of commission.**

3 (a) The commission on pardons shall consist of nine (9) members that would be appointed  
4 as follows:

5 (1) An appointee of the supreme court chief justice;

6 (2) An appointee of the attorney general;

7 (3) An appointee of the public defender;

8 (4) An appointee of the governor;

9 (5) An appointee of the formerly incarcerated union;

10 (6) An appointee of the reentry campus program;

11 (7) An appointee of the center for justice;

12 (8) An appointee of the Nonviolence Institute; and

13 (9) An appointee of the MUSE Foundation of RI.

14 (b) No more than three (3) member appointees shall be active or retired law enforcement  
15 officers.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINALS -- CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS -- STATE COMMISSION  
ON PARDONS

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1           This act would establish a nine (9) member commission on pardons to provide  
2       recommendations to the governor as to who should receive executive pardons per the state  
3       constitution.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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