

PAROLE BOARD

Enabling Laws

Act 137 of 2012
A.C.A. §16-93-201, et seq.

History and Organization

The Parole Board is dedicated to the process of promoting public safety by the return of offenders into the community through supervised, conditional release. The goal is to guide and monitor the transition from confinement to the successful completion of supervision within the community. The State Board of Parole and Community Rehabilitation was created by Act 937 of 1989, with three (3) full-time members and four (4) part-time members.

During the 79th General Assembly Regular Session the name of the State Board of Parole and Community Rehabilitation was changed to the Post Prison Transfer Board. This was followed by Act 285 & 361 of 1995, to provide that the Post Prison Transfer Board be comprised of five (5) full-time members and two (2) part-time members. Act 979 of 1999, authorized a change to six (6) full-time members and one (1) part-time member. The staff consisted of three (3) Revocation Hearing Examiners and seven (7) Clerks for a total of 16 authorized positions.

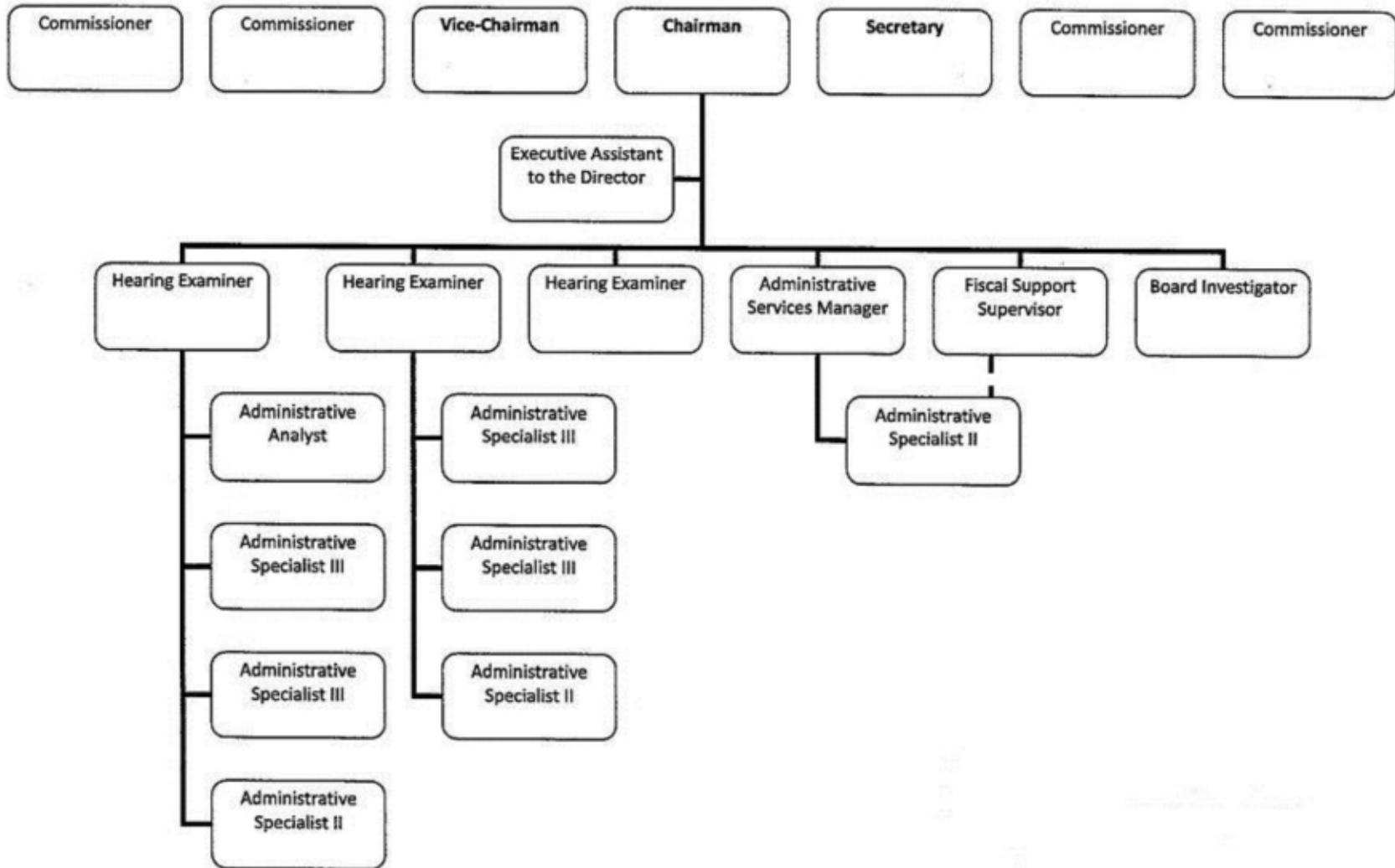
During the 85th General Assembly Regular Session, Act 1033 of 2005 changed the name of the Post Prison Transfer Board to the Parole Board and authorized three (3) additional clerical staff. The staff consisted of three (3) Revocation Hearing Examiners, five (5) Administrative Assistants, three (3) Secretaries, one (1) Management Project Analyst and one (1) Agency Manager for a total of 19 authorized positions.

During the 86th General Assembly Regular Session, Act 697 of 2007 authorized two (2) additional support staff members and changed the composition of the Board to seven (7) full-time members to be appointed from the state at large by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The support staff consists of one (1) Executive Assistant to the Director, three (3) Hearing Examiners, one (1) Investigator, one (1) Fiscal Support Supervisor, one (1) Information Technology/Accreditation Coordinator, two (2) Administrative Support Supervisors, one (1) Fiscal Support Specialist, three (3) Administrative Support Specialists II and two (2) Administrative Support Specialist III for a total of 22 authorized positions.

Since 2002, Arkansas's parole caseload has grown 84%. During the past five years (since FY '08), the number of supervised parolees has increased by 19% (from 20,080 to 24,001 as of June 30, 2012). During FY '12, the Board considered 9,951 cases by means of a hearing or file review by the Board, with 5,539 being face-to-face interviews. According to the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC), the prison population on June 29, 2012 was 14,832. At the end of the biennium (FY '15), the parole and prison populations are projected to reach 25,000 and 15,000 respectively.

Depending on the date of a crime or sentence, some inmates are transfer eligible (TE) and others are parole eligible (PE). Parole/transfer is the conditional release of an inmate from incarceration to structured supervision within the community for the balance of the court-ordered sentence. Parole/transfer may be granted to an eligible person by the Board when, in its opinion, there is a reasonable probability that the person can be released without detriment to the community or the offender or when mandated by law.

Staff from DCC's Institutional Release Services' section prepare case files for use by Board members in conducting hearings and file reviews.



Agency Commentary

The Arkansas Parole Board (APB) is responsible for conducting parole hearings throughout the State, make decisions on conditional release of inmates for correctional facilities, and review all pardon and executive clemency applications and make non-binding recommendations to the Governor. They are responsible to grant, deny, suspend, and revoke parole in accordance with legislative criteria: the risk posed to the community by the offender's potential to re-offend and the rehabilitation and re-integration of the offender back into the community. The Chairman of the Parole Board also serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Corrections.

The Arkansas Parole Board is requesting additional general revenue appropriation and funding in the amount of \$119,270 in fiscal year 2014 and \$109,028 in fiscal year 2015. The breakdown is reflected below:

This budget allocates \$2,000 for each Board Member to attend one (1) conference each fiscal year. Trips will be limited to the Association of Paroling Authorities International, American Probation & Parole Associations, and the National Institute of Corrections. Establishing partnerships with these groups is required under Ark Code Annotated §16-93-201. These amounts are reflects in board member travel meals and board member travel lodging GL codes for a total of \$19,200.

This budget allocates an additional \$7,000 in FY14 and \$7,508 in FY15 for General Office Supplies. This would cover purchases such as paper, pens, furniture and other office related expenses.

The Agency is adding an additional \$7,000 to the Vehicle Maintenance budget, because as the fleet gets older the maintenance costs are increasing.

Video System, Information Network of Arkansas (INA) and Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) are paid out of the same line item, Network Services. We are requesting increases for video network costs in FY 2014. Additional funding and appropriation is being requested for INA in FY14 (increased to fund an online database of Parole Board decisions). The agency also requests additional funding and appropriation for ACIC Transmissions. The total of this request is \$9,670 in FY 14 and a reduction of \$1,080 in FY15.

This budget allocates appropriation and funding to replace fourteen (14) computers during FYs 2014 and 2015 and this is reflected in the GL code of Data Processing Supplies in the amount of \$12,500. Also Data Processing Equipment Maintenance GL code reflects any minor maintenance that needs to be done on the PCs in the amount of \$200 each year of the biennium.

Rent of office equipment GL code reflects an increase of \$11,000 in both fiscal years due to higher copier lease costs.

Telecom Wireless line item reflects a request of \$8,000 each year to cover the additional data plans that resulted from the FY12 Mobility Project. This increase also includes funding for minor equipment and accessory purchases. Telecom wired reflects a reduction of \$6,800 each year of the biennium.

Ark Code Annotated §16-93-201 indicates that the Parole Board Members will annually be trained in data driven decision-making, evidence based practices, stakeholder collaboration, and recidivism reduction. Therefore, staff conferences fees will include annual in-service training for annual ACT 570 training and other internal needs such as strategic planning. These are listed as increases of \$26,500 for each year under Conference and Seminar Fees.

The request in Professional Fees of \$25,000 during each year of the biennium will be used to fund the necessary enhancements to the agency's areas of eOMIS. Previously the Parole Board has had to rely on ADC and DCC to fund projects on behalf of the Board. During FY12 ADC and DCC expended over \$47,000 for Parole Board eOMIS projects.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
 AUDIT OF :
 ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2010

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

State Contracts Over \$25,000 Awarded To Minority Owned Businesses Fiscal Year 2012

None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	5	5	10	45 %
Black Employees	4	8	12	55 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
Total Minorities			12	55 %
Total Employees			22	100 %

Publications

A.C.A. 25-1-204

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# of Copies	Reason(s) for Continued Publication and Distribution
		Governor	General Assembly		
Annual Report	ACA §16-93-202	Y	Y	30	Information Purposes
Monthly Board Reports	ACA §16-93-210	Y	Y	7	Monitor Parole Applications and Outcomes

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2010 - 2011						FY2011 - 2012						FY2012 - 2013					
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total	
22	21	1	22	0	4.55 %	22	22	0	22	0	0.00 %	22	22	0	22	0	0.00 %

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 306 - Parole Board Operations

Funding Sources: HUA - Miscellaneous Agencies Fund

The Parole Board consists of seven members, which are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate for a seven-year term. Board members regularly conduct parole hearings throughout the State of Arkansas and make decisions on conditional releases of inmates in correctional facilities. The Board is also responsible for reviewing all pardon and executive clemency applications and making non-binding recommendations to the Governor. The Chairman of the Parole Board also serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Corrections.

Funding for Parole Board is from general revenue. The Parole Board is authorized to receive assistance from the Department of Correction (DOC) and the Department of Community Correction (DCC), as provided by Section 3 of Act 137 of 2012.

Base Level Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching includes Career Service payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching also includes a \$20 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$410 per month. Base Level salaries and matching do not include appropriation for a Cost of Living Adjustment or Merit Pay Increases. The Base Level request for Regular Salaries includes board member stipend payments.

The Agency's Change Level Request provides for an increase of \$119,270 in FY14 and \$109,028 in FY15 in general revenue funding and appropriation for the 2013-2015 Biennium and reflects the following:

- A title change of three (3) Parole Board Hearing Examiners to Revocation Hearing Judges. This change is for title only and does not reflect a change in job duties.
- Operating Expenses net increases of \$67,770 in FY14 and \$57,528 in FY15 for needs associated with implementation of Act 570 of 2011 for network services expense, vehicle maintenance, data processing equipment maintenance, rent of office equipment, board member travel, office supplies and data processing supplies.
- Conference & Travel Expenses of \$26,500 in each year for increased training per Act 570.
- Professional Fees of \$25,000 in each year for Electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS) enhancements for improved parolee tracking.

The Executive Recommendation provides for Base Level, with the addition of \$36,500 each year in general revenue funding and appropriation as follows:

- Operating Expenses of \$14,000.
- Conference & Travel Expenses of \$2,500.
- Professional Fees of \$20,000.

Appropriation Summary

Appropriation: 306 - Parole Board Operations

Funding Sources: HUA - Miscellaneous Agencies Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item		Historical Data			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation		
		2011-2012 Actual	2012-2013 Budget	2012-2013 Authorized	2013-2014			2014-2015		
					Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	1,297,334	1,233,952	1,279,157	1,238,485	1,238,485	1,238,485	1,239,085	1,239,085	1,239,085
#Positions		22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
Personal Services Matching	5010003	383,837	373,072	388,260	380,088	380,088	380,088	380,220	380,220	380,220
Operating Expenses	5020002	270,429	267,536	270,056	267,536	335,306	281,536	267,536	325,064	281,536
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	2,624	2,500	2,500	2,500	29,000	5,000	2,500	29,000	5,000
Professional Fees	5060010	20,000	0	0	0	25,000	20,000	0	25,000	20,000
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1,974,224	1,877,060	1,939,973	1,888,609	2,007,879	1,925,109	1,889,341	1,998,369	1,925,841
Funding Sources										
General Revenue	4000010	1,974,224	1,877,060		1,888,609	2,007,879	1,925,109	1,889,341	1,998,369	1,925,841
Total Funding		1,974,224	1,877,060		1,888,609	2,007,879	1,925,109	1,889,341	1,998,369	1,925,841
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		1,974,224	1,877,060		1,888,609	2,007,879	1,925,109	1,889,341	1,998,369	1,925,841

Change Level by Appropriation

Appropriation: 306 - Parole Board Operations
Funding Sources: HUA - Miscellaneous Agencies Fund

Agency Request

Change Level		2013-2014	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2014-2015	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	1,888,609	22	1,888,609	100.0	1,889,341	22	1,889,341	100.0
C01	Existing Program	126,070	0	2,014,679	106.7	116,908	0	2,006,249	106.2
C03	Discontinue Program	(6,800)	0	2,007,879	106.3	(7,880)	0	1,998,369	105.8
C14	Title Change	0	0	2,007,879	106.3	0	0	1,998,369	105.8

Executive Recommendation

Change Level		2013-2014	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL	2014-2015	Pos	Cumulative	% of BL
BL	Base Level	1,888,609	22	1,888,609	100.0	1,889,341	22	1,889,341	100.0
C01	Existing Program	36,500	0	1,925,109	101.9	36,500	0	1,925,841	101.9
C03	Discontinue Program	0	0	1,925,109	101.9	0	0	1,925,841	101.9
C14	Title Change	0	0	1,925,109	101.9	0	0	1,925,841	101.9

Justification

C01	Requests of \$126,070 in FY14 and \$116,908 in FY15 are due to increased responsibilities under Act 570. The following GL codes are reflected. Network Services Expense, Vehicle Maintenance, Data Processing Equipment Maintenance, Rent of Office Equipment, Board Member Travel Meals, Board Member Travel Lodging, Office Supplies, Data Processing Supplies, Conference & Seminar Fees, & Professional & Administrative Fees.
C03	Reduction of \$6,800 during both years of the biennium of Telecom wired general ledger code. Also a reduction of \$1,080 in network services expense general ledger code for FY15.
C14	This change would bring the position title in line with other jurisdictions employing individuals doing similar work and more accurately reflect the requirement of being licensed to practice law and admitted to the Arkansas State Bar per ACA 16-22-201. This title change DOES NOT reflect a change in duties.