

SB 1168 – Long-term Inmates (Similar HB 169)

This bill amends s. 947.002, F.S., adding that “the commission shall consider an inmate’s institutional achievements, lack of disciplinary report, and all indications of the lack of risk to the public in the decision to parole an inmate from the incarceration portion of his or her sentence.” The bill also creates s. 947.136, F.S., stating that “the commission and the department shall jointly develop a long-term inmate program, housed within the department, to prepare inmates eligible for parole under this chapter for reintegration into the community.” The program would be voluntary, with the commission referring the inmates, and a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the program. Finally, “successful completion of the program does not guarantee that an inmate will be paroled, and program participation may not extend the length of the inmate’s sentence.”

Per FCOR, there were 1,419 parole determinations in FY 19-20, with parole granted to 41 inmates. In FY 20-21, there were 1,260 parole determinations, with parole granted to 22 inmates. Per DOC, there are currently 3,056 inmates eligible for parole. It is not known how this new language for what FCOR should consider or how this new program will impact the granting of parole.

CONFERENCE ADOPTED ESTIMATE: Negative Indeterminate

Requested by: House