

2026 -- S 2159

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S T A T E O F R H O D E I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINALS -- CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS -- PAROLE

Introduced By: Senators Kallman, Mack, Quezada, Lauria, Vargas, DiMario, Tikoian, Pearson, Urso, and Thompson

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 13-8-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 13-8 entitled "Parole" is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **13-8-2. Qualifications of board members.**

4 The seven (7) electors to be named by the governor shall have the following qualifications:

5 (1)(i) One of the qualified electors shall be a psychologist or a physician who is
6 professionally qualified in the field of psychiatry or neurology;

7 (ii) One shall be a member in good standing of the Rhode Island bar;

8 (iii) One shall be a person who is professionally trained in correctional work or in some
9 closely related general field as a social work; **and**

10 (iv) One shall be a law enforcement officer; **and**

11 **(v) One shall be a person formerly incarcerated or directly impacted by the criminal legal**

12 **system who has completed the probation and parole process three (3) or more years prior with a**

13 **background in one of the following areas: psychology, mental health and/or substance use,**

14 **transitional housing, re-entry after incarceration, education or law.**

15 (2) All of the qualified electors shall be individuals who shall also have shown an interest
16 in social welfare problems.

1 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 -- PAROLE

- 1 This act would require one elector of the parole board to be a person directly impacted by
- 2 the criminal justice system who has completed the probation/parole process three (3) or more years
- 3 prior to selection with a professional background in certain enumerated areas.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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