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LC003696  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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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  
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RELATING TO CRIMINALS -- CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS -- PAROLE

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- 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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