

S.F. No. 1351 – Indeterminate Sentence Release Board (1st Engrossment)

Author: Senator Sandra L. Pappas

Prepared by: Kenneth P. Backhus, Senate Counsel (651/296-4396)

Date: March 20, 2023

Section 1 establishes the Indeterminate Sentence Release Board (ISRB) to review and make release and final discharge determinations for inmates serving life sentences with the possibility of parole or supervised release and those serving indeterminate sentences for crimes committed on or before April 30, 1980. The board consists of five members including the commissioner of corrections and four members appointed with legislative input. Establishes minimum criteria for the members. Requires the commissioner to provide administrative support to the board. Provides that nothing supersedes the commissioner’s ability to revoke an inmate’s release or the authority of the Board of Pardons to grant a pardon or commute a sentence. Requires the board to annually report on its activities.

Sections 2 and 3 make changes to statute to implement section 1. Authorizes the ISRB, by majority vote, to grant supervised release to eligible inmates after they have served the minimum period required by law or at any time for those serving nonlife indeterminate sentences for crimes committed on or before April 30, 1980. Requires the board to set prerelease conditions that inmates must comply with prior to release. Authorizes “constructive parole” for inmates who are being paroled from an indeterminate sentence but who must then serve a consecutive prison sentence to the one from which they are being paroled. Authorizes the board to grant persons on supervised release or parole for a life or indeterminate sentence final discharge from their sentence.

Section 4 prohibits the ISRB from reviewing eligible cases and making release and final discharge decisions until July 1, 2024.

Section 5 provides a revisor instruction to correct statutory language consistent with the bill.