

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1960

TITLE: An Act establishing presumptive parole

SPONSOR: Rep. Dave M. Rogers

COSPONSORS: Sen. Joanne M. Comerford

HEARING DATE: June 3, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1738 (2023-2024)
H1848 (2021-2022)
H1541 (2019-2020)
H3590 (2017-2018)

SENATE BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Section 130 of Chapter 127 of the General Laws establishes guidelines for granting of parole permits, records of decisions, terms and conditions of parole and certificates of termination of sentence. It enables the Parole Board to grant parole permits following a risk and needs assessment that reviews the applicant's behavior while incarcerated.

BILL SUMMARY: Section 1 - Amends Section 130 of Chapter 127 updating the standards for issuing parole to require presumptive parole. Parole may not be granted if the Parole Board finds by a clear and convincing evidence that the prisoner will not live and remain at liberty without violating the law, but otherwise, a parole permit shall be granted at their first date of eligibility and at any subsequent review hearing.

The bill requires the Board to review a person's disability to determine whether it will impede their ability to be successful on parole. If so, they must arrange for an examination to determine how to mitigate these risks while considering parole. If an incarcerated person requires specialized care and cannot secure adequate housing, the Board shall notify the Commissioners of the Department of Public Health and the Department of Mental Health to secure a placement within 60 days. No individual who has been

granted parole shall remain incarcerated for failure to secure an appropriate home plan.