

**HB**

**49**



# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: HB 49  
(H) Publish Date: 01/10/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 1/5/01 Dept. Affected: Corrections  
Title: Extend Parole Board BRU: Administration and Operations  
Sponsor: Rules Committee Component: All  
Requester: Governor Component Number: 649

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Alaska Board of Parole consists of five members plus an administrative staff which includes the Executive Director, Parole Board Administrator, Parole Board Officer and 2 clerical positions. The operating expenditures are included in the Department of Corrections' FY02 budget. Those expenses include 319.5 for personal services, 66.4 for travel, 99.0 for contractual services, 4.7 for supplies, 0 for equipment and 0 for miscellaneous. A request is being made by the Board to include an additional parole officer and .5 clerical position and increased operating costs.

Prepared by: Candace Brower Phone 465-4652  
Division: Commissioner's Office Date/Time 01/05/01/ 4:00 p.m.  
Approved by: Margaret M. Pugh, Commissioner Date 1/5/01  
Agency: Department of Corrections

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

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HB 49  
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January 10, 2001

The Honorable Brian Porter  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

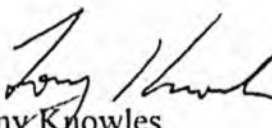
Dear Speaker Porter:

I am transmitting this bill extending the termination date of the Board of Parole for five more years, until June 30, 2006. The board would sunset on June 30, 2001 unless extended by law.

The Board of Parole performs essential functions for the criminal justice system by reviewing prisoners for possible release on discretionary parole, setting conditions for the behavior of prisoners released on both mandatory and discretionary parole, and presiding over parole revocation hearings for those accused of violating their parole conditions. The efforts of the Board of Parole go a long way toward assisting in the rehabilitation of prisoners by reintegrating them back into society while minimizing the risk to the public.

I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

  
Tony Knowles  
Governor

HB 49

# Audit Report



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**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
BOARD OF PAROLE  
SUNSET REVIEW**

December 26, 2000

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**Audit Control Number:**

20-20006-01

**Division of Legislative Audit**

**P.O. Box 113300, Juneau, Alaska 99811-3300**

# LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

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## DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee is a permanent interim committee of the Alaska Legislature. The committee is made up of five senators and five representatives, with one alternate from the Senate and two from the House. The chairmanship of the committee alternates between the two chambers every legislature.

The committee is responsible for providing the legislature with audits of state government agencies. The programs and activities of state government now cost more than \$6 billion a year. As legislators and administrators try increasingly to allocate state revenues effectively and make government work more efficiently, they need information to evaluate the work of governmental agencies. The audit work performed by the Division of Legislative Audit helps provide that information.

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# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

### Division of Legislative Audit



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December 26, 2000

Members of the Legislative Budget  
and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 24 of the Alaska Statutes, the attached report is submitted for your review.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BOARD OF PAROLE SUNSET REVIEW


December 26, 2000

Audit Control Number  
20-20006-01

This audit was conducted as required by AS 44.66.050 and under the authority of AS 24.20.271(1). Alaska Statute 44.66.050(c) lists criteria to be used to assess the demonstrated public need for a given board, commission, agency, or program subject to the sunset review process. Currently under AS 44.66.010(a)(3), the Board of Parole is scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2001. The board would be allowed one year in which to conclude its administrative affairs.

In our opinion, the termination date for the Board of Parole should be extended. Under Alaska Statute 33.16, the Board of Parole serves as the parole authority for the State. The state constitution requires the State to establish a parole system. Among the board's primary responsibilities is the determination of a prisoner's suitability for discretionary parole. We recommend the legislature extend the termination date for the Board of Parole to June 30, 2005.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Fieldwork procedures utilized in the course of developing the findings and discussion presented in this report are discussed in the Objectives, Scope, and Methodology section.

  
Pat Davidson, CPA  
Legislative Auditor

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## OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the intent of Titles 24 and 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), we have reviewed the activities of the Board of Parole to determine whether it is operating in the best interest of the public and if it should be statutorily continued in operation. As required by AS 44.66.050(a), the committee of reference shall consider this report during the legislative oversight process to determine whether the board should be reestablished. Currently, under AS 44.66.010(a)(3) the board will terminate on June 30, 2001, and will have one year from that date to conclude its affairs.

### Objectives

There are two central, interrelated, objectives of our report, which are:

1. To determine if the termination date of the board should be extended.
2. To determine if the board is operating in the public's interest. The assessment of the operations and performance of the board was based on AS 44.66.050(c). This statute sets out criteria that are to be used in determining a demonstrated public need for the board.

### Scope and Methodology

Another auditor at our direction and supervision conducted a majority of this review. We followed professional standards to determine that the other auditor was independent and that their work was competent and sufficient.

During the course of our examination, we reviewed and evaluated the following:

1. Applicable statutes and regulations.
2. Calendar books on parole hearings.
3. Parole files from 1997 through 1999.
4. Interviews with Parole Board staff.
5. Administrative policies and procedures.
6. Board members' compensation files from 1997 through 1999.
7. Office of the Ombudsman closed case file.
8. Budget documents containing goals and objectives of the board and other documents considered relevant.

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## ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION

The Board of Parole was created as the parole authority for the State under AS 33.16, the Parole Administration Act. The board consists of five part-time members appointed by the governor to serve staggered terms of five years. The statute directs that board members be selected for their ability to make decisions that are *"compatible with the welfare of the community and of individual offenders."*

Members of the board serve for staggered terms of five years and until their successors are appointed. The governor from among board members chooses the board's presiding officer. Alaska statute directs that the governor make appointments to the board *"with due regard for representation on the board of the ethnic, racial, sexual, and cultural populations of the state."*

Statutes also require the governor to appoint at least one member who resides in the first judicial district, one member who resides in the third Judicial District, and one member who resides in either the Second or Fourth Judicial District.

Board members are compensated for participating in board business at a rate set by the governor. The current compensation rate for board members is set at \$75 for each half-day and \$150 for each full day.

Travel costs and per diem is also provided for members traveling in conjunction with their duties directly related to board activities. The board has an administrative staff, which currently consists of an executive director, parole administrator, parole board officer, and two support staff.

BOARD OF PAROLE  
DECEMBER 2000

David Cooper, Chairman

Mary Ann Eininger  
Charles Moses  
Mike Miller  
Bertram Matsumoto

The State has two forms of parole: discretionary and mandatory. The board is responsible for decisions under discretionary parole. By statute, an inmate may be considered for discretionary parole release only after a statutory minimum time in prison has been served.

Upon application, an eligible inmate may appear before the board and be considered for discretionary parole. A discretionary parole decision will release an inmate on parole, continue the case for future consideration, or deny parole. In contrast, mandatory parole is not voluntary and release is not contingent upon the board's approval. An inmate will be released on mandatory parole providing their amalgamated sentence is two years or greater. The term of mandatory parole (mandatory release) is equal to the *"good time"* deduction credited to the prisoner's sentence, which is generally one-third of the total sentence.

Additionally, the board is responsible for setting parole conditions and holding parole revocation hearings for both discretionary and mandatory parolees. Revocation hearings are held when it has been determined that a parolee has violated a law or condition of parole. The board has three options under revocation hearings: revoke parole and return the parolee to prison, revoke parole and re-parole without time credited against the sentence for prior time on parole, or take no action.

The board's operations are financed by general fund appropriations as a component of the Department of Corrections. Personnel services for administrative staff account for the majority of the board's expenditures. As shown on the following table, the board's annual appropriations and expenditures have increased relative to prior fiscal years for the period of FY 97 through FY 99.

Fiscal Year	Appropriations	Expenditures
1997	\$ 482,815	\$ 480,451
1998	575,172	571,567
1999	<u>622,354</u>	<u>622,354</u>
Total	<u>\$1,680,341</u>	<u>\$1,674,372</u>

## REPORT CONCLUSIONS

Under Alaska Statute 33.16, the Board of Parole serves as the parole authority for the State, which fulfills the Alaska Constitution requirement that the State establish a parole system. Among the board's primary responsibilities is the determination of a prisoner's suitability for discretionary parole. The board also conducts revocation hearings; sets parole conditions, investigate clemency requests for the governor and perform additional parole matters as necessary. Currently, there is no other entity in the State that provides these services.

The board conducts its business in a professional manner, although deficiencies have been noted in operations of the administrative functions (see Recommendations Nos. 1 through 3).

Currently, under AS 44.66.010(3) the board is scheduled to terminate operations on June 30, 2001. If the legislature does not extend the termination date for the board, it will have one year from that date to conclude operations. In our opinion, the legislature should extend the board's termination date to June 30, 2005.

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## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation No. 1

The Board of Parole should develop a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Corrections to formally reflect the de facto partial "delegation" of the board's responsibilities under statute for the notification of victims of their right to comment at parole hearings.

Currently, under the AS 33.16.120 the board is responsible for notifying the victim(s) of a potential parolee's crime when that individual is about to be considered for discretionary parole.

In practice, however, for prospective parolees incarcerated in facilities located in the State, the Department of Corrections' (DOC) institutional parole officers carry out this responsibility. The board only informs victims that have requested notification for those inmates housed out-of-state who are applying for discretionary parole. The statutes are silent on victim notification of parole hearings related to revocations.

From our review, it does seem the victim notification process is being implemented effectively in a manner consistent with the intent of the statute. As a practical matter, however, board staff carries out victim notification responsibilities for only a limited number of individuals applying for discretionary parole.

We suggest the board may better discharge its statutory responsibility by entering into a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DOC. Such a MOU would recognize the board's responsibility by statute for notifying victims while at the same time reflecting DOC's role in the process.

### Recommendation No. 2

The board should seek reauthorization from the governor for compensation of board members. Such reauthorization should be structured in a manner that accurately reflects the tasks performed by the Board of Parole.

Under AS 33.16.040 a member of the Board of Parole is to be compensated at an amount to be set by the governor for each day "*the member is participating in business of the board.*"

Currently, board members are to be reimbursed at a rate of \$150 per full day and \$75 per half-day as established by administrative order issued by Governor Sheffield in March 1984. This 16-year-old gubernatorial memorandum authorizing the compensation is simple and direct; setting terms for payment on either one of two bases – payment for either a half-day of work or a full day of work.

Over the years the compensation rate has been interpreted and applied in various ways. The board members are reimbursed for reading prospective parolees' correctional system files prior to attending the parole hearing. The board has established policies to allow for a board member to be reimbursed at the rate of \$10 per file for each file read in preparation for the hearing. Technically, under the current reimbursement scheme there is no basis for such compensation payments, because they do not lend themselves to the one-half or full day structure established by Governor Sheffield.

There are various other duties for which board members are reimbursed more on a "piece work" basis, rather than at either the full or half-day rate set out in the Sheffield order. We are satisfied that board members are consistent with the general intent of the order – often by reimbursing for duties on a "piece work" basis, less compensation is paid out than would be done using the full or half-day scale. We believe, however, that the manner in which board members are compensated should be consistent with the specific letter of the governor's direction, as provided for in statute.

We recommend that the Board of Parole develop and submit revised compensation guidelines to the governor's office for its consideration. We recommend that the governor's office evaluate compensation of board members, and consider making adjustments to reflect the current "piecework" compensation structure.

### Recommendation No. 3

The board should initiate procedures that allow for a review of the risk assessment form to ensure that all mathematical calculations are performed correctly.

During our review of 80 parole files we noted seven errors in the mathematical calculation of the applicant's risk assessment form. In two instances the errors had an impact on the risk category to which the individual involved was assigned. In one of these cases, the individual was considered in a higher risk "D" category when actually they were in the lower "C" risk category (see Exhibit 1 on page 10 for discussion of risk categories and scores).

A system needs to be established to verify the mathematical calculation of the risk assessment score. This would affect the parole guidelines that the board follows when deciding on whether or not to grant parole. If the risk assessment score is calculated properly, the board and the applicant know that decision will be made on mathematically accurate information provided.

## ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC NEED

### LIMITED ANALYSIS

The following analyses of Board of Parole activities relate to the public need factors defined in the "sunset" law, Alaska Statute 44.66.050. These analyses are not intended to be comprehensive, but address those areas we were able to cover within the scope of our review.

***Determine the extent to which the board, commission, or agency has operated in the public interest.***

The Board of Parole has established objective, quantitative criteria for use in evaluating individuals eligible for parole.

The criteria applied by the board are designed to assess the risk posed to the public by an individual under consideration for parole.

For more discussion on these risk factors and how they are used see discussion in Exhibit 1 on page 10. In the board's 1999 annual report, parole actions taken by the board were made in the context of these risk factors. Further, the board confirmed that these risk factors were relevant, by analyzing the parole violation rates compared to risk scores.

In the report, this statistical analysis indicated that the board did appropriately consider risk to the general public when granting discretionary parole. From the analysis presented in the 1999 report, the board granted discretionary parole at a higher rate to applicants assessed at a lower risk than to higher risk individuals. Further, when evaluated in the context of parole violations, these risk factors appeared to be appropriate and relevant. Individuals with higher risk scores had a higher parole violation rate than individuals with lower risk scores.

We analyzed parole application and risk assessment data for the three-year period 1997 through 1999. On a sample basis, we confirmed the consistent application of rates of parole with information in the 1998 and 1999 annual reports.

The results of our tests support the assessment, made in the 1999 annual report, that the board is "*paying a great deal of attention to an applicant's risk to the community at the time parole is granted.*" The results of our analysis are illustrated in Exhibit 2 on page 11.

## EXHIBIT 1

### PAROLE GUIDELINES CRITERIA ARE DESIGNED TO MEASURE RISK AND LIKELIHOOD PAROLEE WILL REOFFEND OR VIOLATE PAROLE

The Board of Parole has developed guidelines, which are used in exercising parole discretion. The guidelines suggest the amount of time an individual should serve before being released on discretionary parole. Guidelines are based on the nature of the crime and individual risk factors such as prior criminal and social history.

On occasion, discretionary parole hearings are granted to applicants that fall either above or below the guidelines. The board considers these cases in specific aggravating or mitigating circumstances. An important aspect of the guidelines is the risk assessment score. Risk scores range between 0 and 49.

Points are assigned for such factors as: (1) age of the applicant at the time of the first offense and current age; (2) employment history prior to incarceration; (3) history of drug and/or alcohol abuse; and, (4) prior criminal record. When used with the guidelines (see Appendix A) the applicants are sorted into one of four categories based on their risk assessment score.

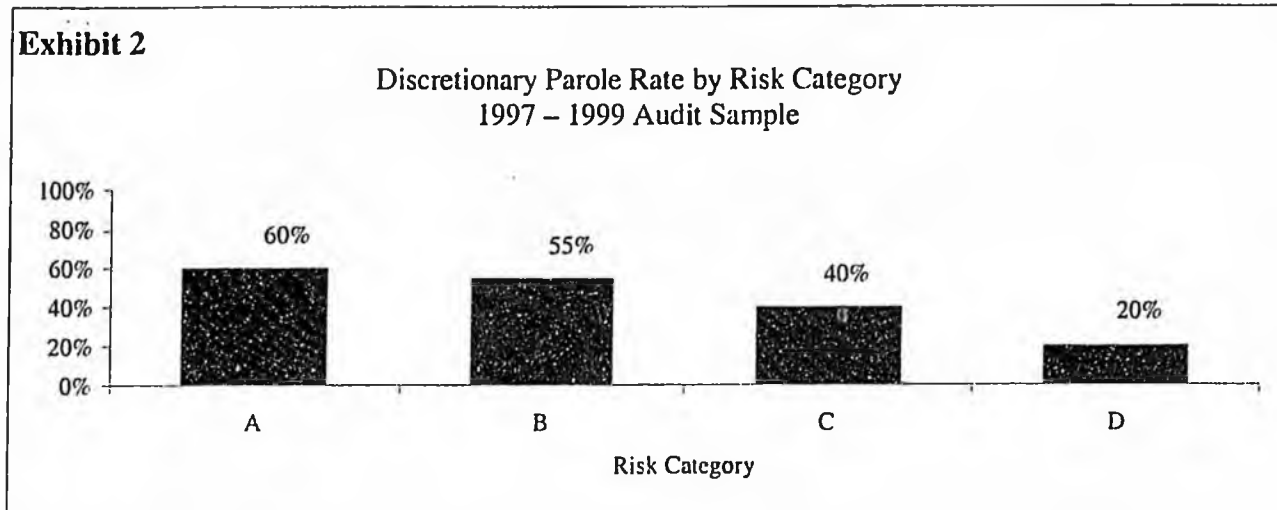
The four categories, labeled A through D, are as follows:

A = 0-6 pts.	B = 7-14 pts.
C = 15-29 pts.	D = 30-49 pts.

Exhibit 2 illustrates that for the 80 cases selected and reviewed between calendar years 1997 and 1999; lower risk applicants have a larger discretionary parole rate than individuals with higher risk scores. As stated in our analysis discussion, this trend indicates the board is appropriately considering risk when granting discretionary parole.

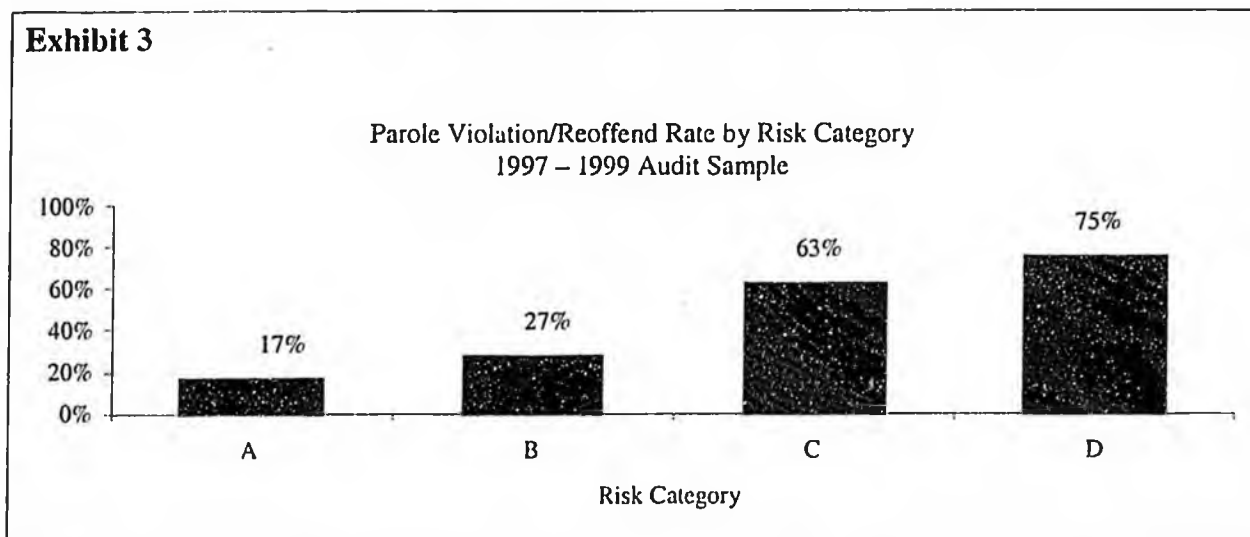
Exhibit 3 illustrates the rate at which individuals with various risk scores re-offend. The gradually increasing rate of parole violation compared to risk scores, gives some indication that the risk score criteria used by the Board is relevant and does correlate with risk to the general public.

The graph in Exhibit 2 below, indicates that for the sample of files we reviewed, as the risk level became higher (the prospective parolee went from lower risk category A to highest risk category D) the board was less likely to grant discretionary parole.



We also confirmed the factors used to assess risk are reasonable. Risk factors were validated by our analysis of the rate of parole violations compared to risk scores.

This analysis is illustrated by the Graph in Exhibit 3, which indicates that parolees classified in higher risk categories at the time of their parole were likely to violate or reoffend while on parole.



The Board of Parole in conjunction with the Department of Corrections has an appropriate and adequate system in place to notify victims regarding the consideration of discretionary parole. Victims are afforded an opportunity to make written or oral presentations to the board as required under AS 33.16.1200.

*Determine the extent to which the operations of the board has been impeded or enhanced by existing statutes, procedures, and practices, which it has adopted, and any other matter, including budgetary, resource, and personnel matters.*

Since 1991, the board's administrative staff has not increased even though the number of hearings has grown. The board has continued to meet statutory requirements for quarterly meetings, discretionary parole releases, revocations and clemency investigations. Additionally, the board adopted a new process of conducting monthly meetings to handle mandatory revocations. The goal of this process is to allow the quarterly meetings to be more focused on discretionary parole releases.

The Board of Parole has established many forms and guidelines used in the operation of the board. The board also publishes an annual report, which provides narrative and statistical information about parole caseload and parole decisions.

The current statutes require that the Board of Parole be responsible for victim notification under AS 33.16.120, yet in practice the Department of Corrections performs the function with little oversight or follow-up by the Board of Parole.

*Determine the extent to which the board has recommended statutory changes that are generally of benefit to the public interest.*

The board supported legislation to allow special medical parole for severely ill inmates. Under the statute, severely ill inmates, who pose minimal threat to the public, can be discharged. This also has the practical benefit of reducing Department of Corrections' health care costs, which would be incurred by the State during further incarceration.

*Determine the extent to which the board, commission or agency has encouraged interested persons to report to it concerning the effect of its regulations and decisions on the effectiveness of services, economy of service, and availability of services that it has provided.*

Due to the nature of its operations many and varied people contact the board for assistance. Victims are concerned about possible parole of perpetrators as well as the families of the individuals who may face incarceration out-of-state. The board's executive director deals with many of these calls, acting much like a "screener," to avoid having the board have to take up calls which it can do little, if anything about.

However, if calls involve policy and actions that should and can be addressed by the full board, the complaint and concerns are conveyed to the board chairman who makes the determination of whether to present the complaint to the board for further action or take other administrative action.

The board meets quarterly to conduct parole hearings and monthly to review mandatory revocation.

*Determine the extent to which the board has encouraged public participation in the making of its regulations and decisions.*

Currently, the executive director is drafting regulations to correspond with recent board statutory changes related to special medical parole and victim notification of pending parole actions. The board anticipates that a draft of these regulations will be completed for submission and advisement during the 2001 legislative session. Public comments are solicited during the annual public meetings. There is no indication that the board has encouraged public participation in the making of its regulations and decisions other than the attempt to solicit public comment at publicly held meetings and public notice of proposed regulations.

*Determine the efficiency with which public inquiries or complaints regarding the activities of the board, commission, or agency filed with it; with the department to which a board or commission is administratively assigned; or with the Office of the Ombudsman have been processed and resolved.*

Public inquiries or complaints regarding decisions of the board or operations of the agency are typically forwarded to the chairman of the board for resolution. For inquiries forwarded to the chair for further consideration, the complaints or the issues raised by the complaints, were either addressed by the full board or by the chair in a timely manner. Additionally, we did not note any problems or issues from our review of closed cases filed at the Office of the Ombudsman between fiscal years 1997 through 1999.

*Determine the extent to which the board regulates entry into an occupation or profession and whether it has presented qualified applicants to serve the public.*

This statutory criterion is not applicable to the Board of Parole.

*Determine the extent to which state personnel practices, including affirmative action requirements, have been complied with by the board to its own activities and the area of activity or interest.*

No complaints against the board were identified.

*Determine the extent to which statutory, regulatory, budgeting or other changes are necessary to enable the board to better serve the interest of the public and to comply with the factors enumerated in this subsection.*

During FY 00, the Alaska Criminal Justice Assessment Commission conducted an operational review of the State's correctional and parole supervision system. The board issued a number of recommendations, of which we identified the following, in our view, which would benefit the operations of the Board of Parole:

1. Improved standardization of forms and procedures used in petitions to revoke probation and parole.
2. Development of additional treatment programs, including substance abuse and sex offender treatment programs, particularly in rural Alaska.
3. Expansion of the Department of Corrections' enhanced probation program to other larger cities, to provide joint agency community based probation/parole supervision programs, treatment and services, to supplement existing supervision with video supervision in small communities.
4. Greater use of volunteers, when appropriate, in the supervision of probationers/parolees.

Implementation of these recommendations would have a direct and indirect effect on the Board of Parole. The direct effect is that it increases the number of options that the board has to choose from when considering the appropriate treatment of parolees. The indirect effect would be the overall decrease of repeat offenders and parole violators that come back in front of the board.

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

REPLY TO:

PO BOX 112000  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2000  
PHONE (907) 465-3376

February 21, 2001

Ms. Pat Davidson, CPA  
Legislative Auditor  
Alaska State Legislator  
Legislative Budget & Audit  
Division of Legislative Audit  
P.O. Box 113300  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3300

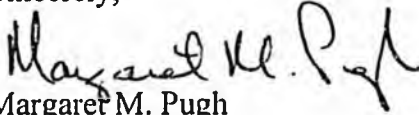
RECEIVED  
FEB 26 2001  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Dear Ms. Davidson:

On behalf of the Alaska Board of Parole, we appreciate the opportunity to respond to the analyses, findings, and statements noted in your Preliminary Audit Report for the Department of Corrections Board of Parole, Sunset Review, December 26, 2000; Audit Control Number 20-20006-01. Enclosed you will find a written response from the Board of Parole outlining their comments on the Audit's recommendations.

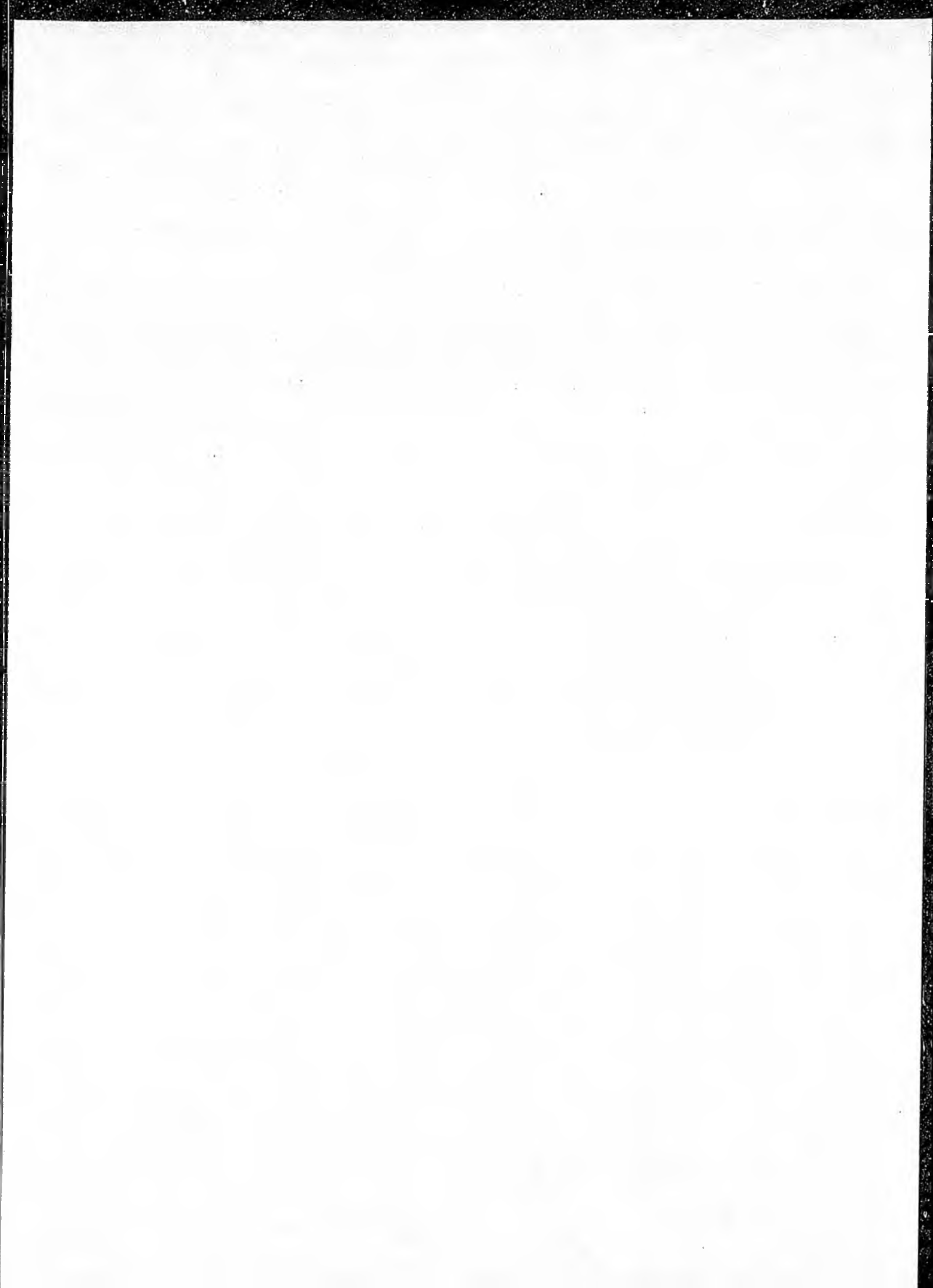
Should you have any further questions, or require more information, please contact my Administrative Services Director, Dwayne B. Peeples at 465-3339.

Sincerely,

  
Margaret M. Pugh  
Commissioner

CC: Dwayne B. Peeples, Director  
Division of Administrative Services

Lawrence W. Jones, Executive Director  
Alaska Board of Parole



STATE OF ALASKA /

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

**BOARD OF PAROLE**

ALASKA BOARD OF PAROLE

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February 9, 2001

Ms. Pat Davidson  
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Juneau, AK 99811-3300

RECEIVED  
FEB 26 2001  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Dear Ms. Davidson:

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Preliminary Audit Report (Audit Control Number 20-20006-01) relating to the sunset audit for the Alaska Board of Parole. The professionalism and cooperation exhibited by your office and the audit firm during the course of the field work portion of the audit was appreciated. I offer the following brief responses to the Findings and Recommendations noted in this preliminary report.

The Board does fully support the opinion that the board's termination date be extended to June 30, 2005. Even further extension of the termination date would seemingly be in the best fiscal interest of the state.

**Recommendation No. 1**

The Board of Parole should develop a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Corrections to formally reflect the de facto partial "delegation" of the board's responsibilities under statute for the notification of victims of their right to comment at parole hearings.

The Board does appreciate your recommendation of developing a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Corrections to establish the practical and logistical victim notification process, which in fact has been occurring for a number of years. The Board has internally expressed some concern about the liability that the Board may hold should this process not function properly, and a Memorandum of Understanding seems a valid mechanism for formalizing that relationship with the Department of Corrections. The Board will initiate discussions with the Department of Corrections in the near future.

**Recommendation No. 2**

The board should seek reauthorization from the governor for compensation of board members. Such reauthorization should be structured in a manner that accurately reflects the tasks performed by the Board of Parole.

The Board of Parole accepts this recommendation, and will provide to the Office of the Governor (through the Office of Boards and Commissions) in the near future a recommended statement of compensation for Board members that accurately and in greater detail expresses the mechanism for member compensation that has been in effect for a number of years. I am pleased that you recognize that this methodology for compensation in fact results in a savings to the state for compensation paid (rather than strictly adhering to the simplistic full-day and half-day compensation scenario). The Board is constantly aware of the expenses which they incur, including compensation, and makes a full attempt to be as efficient as possible in its operations.

**Recommendation No. 3**

The board should initiate procedures that allow for a review of the risk assessment form to ensure that all mathematical calculations are performed correctly.

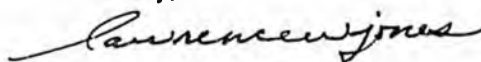
The Board accepts this recommendation and will implement review procedures as soon as possible in order to assure accuracy of calculations.

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In review of the remainder of the Preliminary Audit, the Board of Parole is in agreement with your analyses, findings and statements. The Board continues to be a primary proponent of attempts to develop "additional treatment programs, including substance abuse and sex offender treatment programs, particularly in rural Alaska" as presented by the Criminal Justice Assessment Commission.

Should you have further questions or desire additional input please feel free to contact me or Larry Jones (465-3304).

Sincerely,

  
for David F. Cooper  
Chair, Alaska Board of Parole

cc: Margaret Pugh, Commissioner, Department of Corrections  
Larry Jones, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Parole