

MANDATORY PAROLE SUBCOMMITTEE
FINAL RECOMMENDATION PRESENTED TO THE
COLORADO COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE
November 13, 2015

FY16-MP #01 Update and Rewrite the Statutory Purposes of Parole to Reflect Contemporary and Common Evidence-Based Practices

Recommendation FY16-MP #01

Update the statute that describes the purpose of parole in Colorado by amending C.R.S. 17-22.5-102.5 to incorporate the language presented below.

Discussion

Colorado's Purpose of Parole statute requires updating to reflect current research that promotes offender success while making the transition from prison to the community. Many states have revised their parole statutes to reflect evidence-based practices and policies, and to include a focus on preparation for community release along with public protection.

Proposed statutory language

Amend C.R.S. 17-22.5-102.5 as follows:

17-22.5-102.5. Purpose of parole. (1) The purposes of this article with respect to parole are:

(A) ~~(b) To assure the fair and consistent treatment of all convicted offenders by eliminating unjustified disparity in length of incarceration, and establishing fair procedures for the imposition of a period of parole supervision;~~ TO FURTHER ALL PURPOSES OF SENTENCING AND TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY BY REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS AND CRIME COMMITTED BY PEOPLE ON PAROLE;-

(B) ~~(a) To punish a convicted offender by assuring that his length of incarceration and period of parole supervision are in relation to the seriousness of his offense;~~ TO PREPARE, SELECT, AND ASSIST PEOPLE WHO, AFTER SERVING A STATUTORILY DEFINED PERIOD OF INCARCERATION, WILL BE TRANSITIONED AND RETURNED TO THE COMMUNITY;

(C) ~~(c) To promote rehabilitation by encouraging the successful reintegration of convicted offenders into the community while recognizing the need for public safety.~~ TO SET INDIVIDUALIZED CONDITIONS OF PAROLE AND TO PROVIDE SUPERVISION SERVICES AND SUPPORT TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE ON PAROLE IN ADDRESSING IDENTIFIED RISKS AND NEEDS;
AND

(d) TO ACHIEVE A SUCCESSFUL DISCHARGE FROM PAROLE SUPERVISION FOR PEOPLE ON PAROLE THROUGH COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RELEASE WHICH ADDRESS THEIR RISKS AND NEEDS.