

Subject Board of Pardons

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Overview

This bill modifies the Board of Pardons' operations as well as the petition review and disposition process. The bill creates a Clemency Review Commission to make recommendations on petitions to the Board of Pardons and requires a majority vote, with the governor required to vote in the majority, on petitions. (Currently a unanimous vote is required.)

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Board of Pardons; how constituted; duties.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Board of Pardons. Grants additional voting authority to the governor in pardon board votes. Currently, the three members of the board—chief justice, attorney general, and governor—have equal authority in the board's decisions.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Clemency Review Commission. Establishes a nine member Clemency Review Commission to screen petitions submitted to the board and make disposition recommendations on the petitions to board members.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Absolute or conditional pardons; commutation of sentences.</p> <p>Contains a conforming change to reflect the proposal to have the board make decisions by majority rather than unanimous vote.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Petition; pardon extraordinary.</p> <p>Contains conforming changes.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Meetings.</p> <p>Requires the commission to meet at least four times per year to review petitions. Mandates that meetings be open to the public.</p> |

Section	Description
5	Action on application. Contains conforming changes.
6	Records; secretary. Assigns the commission certain duties currently assigned to the commissioner of corrections.
7	Annual reports to legislature. Directs the commission to assume responsibility for filing the mandated report to the legislature and expands the list of information that must be addressed in the report.
8	Issuance of process; witnesses; standing appropriation. Grants the commission the authority to require the presence of persons and officers with information that is necessary for the commission to resolve pending matters.



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