

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2023

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LR27CA

Chairperson: Senator Justin Wayne

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: March 16, 2023

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LR27CA will amend the constitution to make changes to the board of pardons by expanding the board to 7 members. The board will consist of a formerly incarcerated individual, an individual with experience in restorative justice and re-entry, a victims rights representative and an individual that has experience in mental health, conflict resolution and trauma counseling/therapy. The board will be prohibited from using a three year rule to make individuals wait to be eligible for a pardon and give individuals a hearing no matter when the offense happens. Each applicant will also be guaranteed the opportunity to make their case in front of the board. Decisions made in bulk will be prohibited and each request will be heard on an individual basis. The entire board must meet at least twice every month, if not, the judiciary committee can take authority over the board if this happens three times in one year. Lastly, four additional members will be appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Terrell McKinney