

STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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August 23, 2013

Ms. Marty Garrity, Director
Bureau of Legislative Research
State Capitol, Room 315
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Ms. Garrity:

In light of all the news reports and major pending changes with the parole and probation issues and the urgency for the agency to comply with the upcoming changes, the Office of Personnel Management is seeking emergency approval from the appropriate legislative committees for requests received from the Arkansas Parole Board. Due to the fact that the Uniform Personnel Committee did not meet in the month of August, it becomes necessary that the appropriate legislative committees approve these requests for the Arkansas Parole Board.

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The Parole Board is requesting a swap pool position from the Office of Personnel Management Pool. They request a Computer Support Specialist, Grade C119/Class Code D063C, and will surrender an Administrative Specialist II, Grade C109/Class Code C073C. The Computer Support Specialist will be responsible for providing technical support for the Board. The Parole Board has struggled to meet several data requests from legislators and other agencies. The information usually requested requires individualized programming and the Board has had to reach out to the Department of Correction and the Department of Community Correction to assist with these requests. The Board has been without a dedicated IT position since 2010. Waiting until FY15 to request the IT position would put the Board in an unsustainable situation. This position will allow the agency to expand their efforts regarding mobility and automation. Since 2010, the agency has begun a mobility initiative, automating the majority of their Revocation section, and has laid out plans for automating the release of parole decisions (a project funded for FY14). Finally, this position will allow the Board to quickly respond to specialized data requests by having the internal resources to query their electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS).

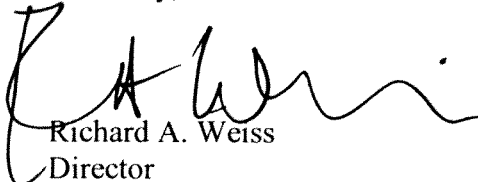
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The Parole Board is also requesting a growth pool position for a Revocation Hearing Judge, Grade N902/Class Code G023N. The Revocation Hearing Judge will be responsible for conducting revocation hearings. The Board of Correction has instituted several policy changes within the Department of Community Correction, two of which have a direct bearing on the revocation functions of the Parole Board. From the date the changes were implemented until now, the Parole Board has received 2,413 violation reports and nearly 1,000 revocation hearing requests.

Additionally, Act 1029 of 2013 mandates that all parolees who are charged with a violent or sex offense be jailed pending a revocation hearing. Act 1029 not only permanently increases the Board's case load; it creates an expectation that each case is adequately reviewed. If this request is approved, it will authorize the Parole Board a total of four Revocation Hearing Judges, which will help reduce the current case load for the Board. This position requires a license to practice law in the state in addition to knowledge of state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and precedents, and knowledge of legal research and writing protocols.

The Office of Personnel Management has reviewed the information submitted and recommends approval of the Parole Board's requests and now seeks emergency approval from the appropriate legislative committees concerning this matter. Approval of these requests would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Weiss
Director