

ARKANSAS PAROLE BOARD



ASA HUTCHINSON
Governor

105 WEST CAPITOL - SUITE 500
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
Phone: (501) 682-3850
FAX: (501) 683-5381
www.paroleboard.arkansas.gov

JOHN FELTS
Chairman

June 8, 2015

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Governor of Arkansas
State Capitol Building, Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Act 1265, The Public Safety Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of Act 1265 of 2015, the Arkansas Parole Board ("the Board") has developed the following plan to enhance our current transparency efforts by providing additional information to the general public, especially victims of crime. The Board has worked collaboratively with Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) and Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) in order to ensure that all requirements of the Act are met.

Shortly after being appointed as Chairman of the Board in 2011, I directed staff to study the feasibility of posting our decisions on-line. The goal of this project was to streamline the release of information by the Board and provide greater transparency related to our decisions. The Board was honored to receive a grant earlier this year to fund development of this project. Programming has begun and we expect to complete the project by late summer. Act 1265 enhances our ongoing transparency initiatives by providing information prior to the Board's consideration of an inmate. In accordance with Section 11 of Act 1265 of 2015, the Board will be creating a searchable database on our website with the following information from the State's electronic offender management information system (eOMIS):

1. The inmate's name
2. ADC #
3. Current Photograph
4. Project hearing date
5. Previous probation and parole revocations (# only by type)
6. A link to the inmate's profile page on the ADC website

In addition to the information listed above, the Board will also be posting all active convictions during the period the inmate is being considered for parole. The information will be posted in a manner consistent with Federal law and/or Interstate Compact rule.

The Board will contract with the Information Network of Arkansas (INA) and the eOMIS vendor, Marquis Software Development, in order to complete the project. INA will be responsible for the

web development and Marquis will provide the information in a format sufficient for posting and searching. Final development costs are still being determined, however to reduce the cost to the State, the Board has agreed to work with ACC and ADC in order to enhance their current offender database files to meet the requirements of this Act.

The Board will continue working with ACC and ADC to ensure all information required under Act 1265 is made available to the public. If any clarification of the Board's implementation plan is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Solomon Graves, APB Administrative Services Manager, at 501-682-3850.

Sincerely,


John Felts, Chairman

cc: Arkansas Parole Board
The Honorable Jeremy Hutchinson, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Matthew J. Shepherd, Chair, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Alan Clark, Co-Chair, Joint Performance Review Committee
The Honorable Kim Hammer, Co-Chair, Joint Performance Review Committee
The Honorable Bill Sample, Co-Chair, Legislative Council
The Honorable David Branscum, Co-Chair, Legislative Council
File