

Budget Brief – Board of Pardons and Parole

MHA

EOCJ-BPP-01

SUMMARY

The Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) is the Constitutionally-empowered release authority for inmates in the State of Utah. As such, the Board reviews inmate performance and determines when and under what conditions an inmate may be released after serving the minimum sentence required by law. The Board also reviews violations of release conditions and decides whether an offender should be returned to prison. The Board is an independent organization from Corrections and the Courts. The BPP has full parole, pardon, and commutation authority over all offenders in the custody of the UDC.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Pardons and Parole is a small office that plays a large role in Correctional operations and capacity control. Five BPP Board Members and 10 hearing officers are responsible for making over 12,000 decisions annually.

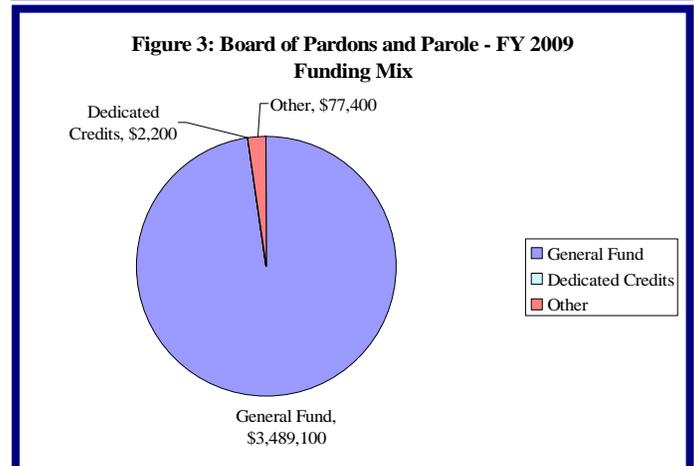
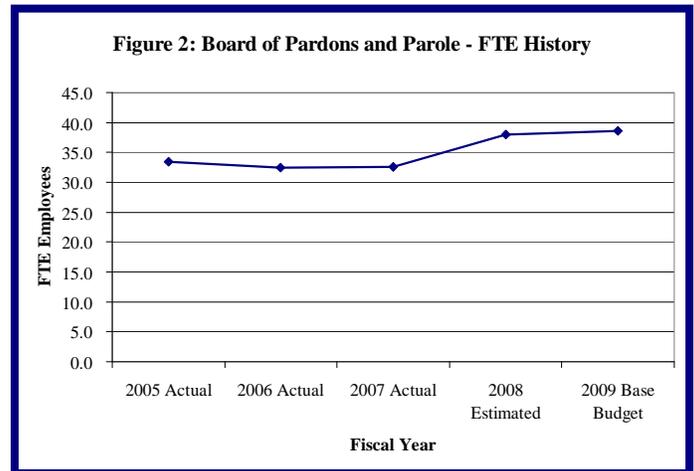
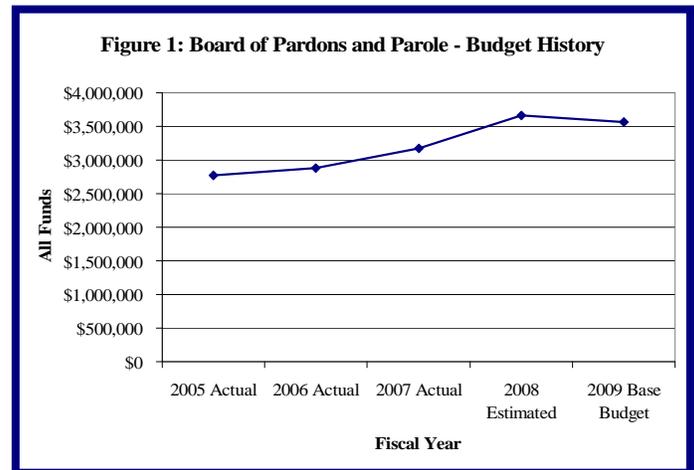
Since 1993, Board decisions and caseload have increased 93 percent. The BPP faces considerable pressure to release offenders from prison because of the growing inmate population. Currently, the State prison system is approaching maximum capacity. The Board is the sole organization authorized to release offenders from prison.

The budget increases of FY 2008 are due to the addition of a case analyst, increases in attorney contracts, and discretionary salary increase funding. The Board of Pardons and Parole has requested an additional \$281,000 in General Fund to hire one hearing officer, one office technician, information technology replacement, instate travel and employee training. Whenever the Courts hire a new judge and the Department of Corrections increases inmate capacity, BPP caseloads increase.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Board of Pardons and Parole focuses on rendering decisions regarding offender length of incarceration, parole supervision and termination of sentence. The BPP must factor their decisions with the best interests of public safety.

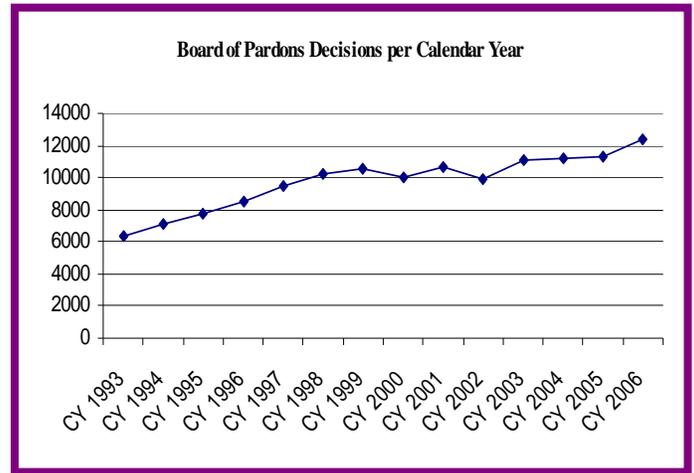
Hearings must be held in a timely manner especially since prison populations are steadily increasing. The primary performance measures focuses on the hearings process rather than public safety because many outside factors regarding public safety are beyond the control of



the Board. Both output-based measures and outcome-based measures are included.

Workload Data

Each BPP decision requires at least three of five board members to agree. Decision output depends on the number of persons incarcerated and the number of persons qualified to be released. The Board controls the following factors: 1) hearing fairness, and 2) hearing timeliness. If statutory time frames are not met, the Board can be sued. The Board of Pardons has never been sued for failing to make timely decisions. Additional BPP performance tables are listed in the Compendium of Budgetary Information (COBI).



Balanced Scorecard

Included at right is the Board of Pardons and Parole Balanced Scorecard measures. The Balanced Scorecard is a performance measurement system instituted by the Governor for all state agencies. The Balanced Scorecard measures for the Board include such measures as “Timeliness of All Hearing Results” and “Parole Revocation Timeliness”. These measures attempt to capture desired outcomes of the agency and the State.

Metric	Status	Trend	Target	Current	Previous
1 Timeliness of All Hearing Results	Green	▲	95%	99%	99%
2 Parole Revocation Timeliness	Green	△	85%	86%	55%
3 Response Time for Correspondence	Green	▲	10	3.43	2.69
4 Victim Notification	Yellow	▽	70%	55%	56%
5 Conduct Hearings According to Rule (Fewer parole violations)	Green	▲	90%	100%	89%
6 Non-hearing Routings Timeliness	Yellow	▽	100%	88%	88%

BUDGET DETAIL

More than 97% of the Board of Pardons budget is made up of General Funds with the remaining coming from Tobacco Settlement funds. The Board has requested \$281,000 in additional General Fund to hire a hearing officer, office technician, information technology replacement, instate travel, and employee training.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

1. The Analyst recommends a base budget for the Board of Pardons and Parole of \$3,568,700.
2. Continue the Board of Pardons and Parole’s non-lapsing authority.

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

Board of Pardons and Parole						
	FY 2007	FY 2008		FY 2008		FY 2009*
Sources of Finance	Actual	Appropriated	Changes	Revised	Changes	Base Budget
General Fund	3,148,200	3,489,100	0	3,489,100	0	3,489,100
General Fund, One-time	(6,500)	(4,500)	0	(4,500)	4,500	0
Dedicated Credits Revenue	1,700	2,200	0	2,200	0	2,200
GFR - Tobacco Settlement	77,400	77,400	0	77,400	0	77,400
Transfers - Commission on Criminal and Juvenile J	0	0	34,300	34,300	(34,300)	0
Beginning Nonlapsing	16,900	0	60,600	60,600	(60,600)	0
Closing Nonlapsing	(60,600)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$3,177,100	\$3,564,200	\$94,900	\$3,659,100	(\$90,400)	\$3,568,700
Line Items						
Board Of Pardons and Parole	3,177,100	3,564,200	94,900	3,659,100	(90,400)	3,568,700
Total	\$3,177,100	\$3,564,200	\$94,900	\$3,659,100	(\$90,400)	\$3,568,700
Categories of Expenditure						
Personal Services	2,525,000	2,983,900	(38,300)	2,945,600	(35,100)	2,910,500
In-State Travel	20,300	15,000	5,300	20,300	0	20,300
Out of State Travel	12,000	8,900	3,100	12,000	0	12,000
Current Expense	487,900	532,800	16,500	549,300	(55,300)	494,000
DP Current Expense	131,900	23,600	108,300	131,900	0	131,900
Total	\$3,177,100	\$3,564,200	\$94,900	\$3,659,100	(\$90,400)	\$3,568,700
Other Data						
Budgeted FTE	32.6	37.5	0.5	38.0	0.6	38.6
Vehicles	6.0	6.0	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.0

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.