

FILE COPY

Iron County Board of Commissioners

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Copy mailed 11-13-15
to: Casperson,
Dianda
MAC-Tim McBeire

Board Chair
Tim Aho
Vice Chair
Jim Brennan
Finance Chair
Patti Peretto
Commissioners
Ray Coates
Sharon Leonoff

Board of Commissioners Office

County Administrator
Sue K. Clisch

Administrative Assistant
FOIA Coordinator
Mary S. Dalpra

Iron County Board of Commissioners RESOLUTION Opposing HB 4138 (H-4), Presumptive Parole

At the November 10, 2015 regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Iron, Commissioner, Coates introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

WHEREAS, Our County will not support violent felons being released on parole without a full and detailed evaluation by an educated and experienced parole board. Violent felons should not be presumed eligible for parole at their earliest prison release date.

WHEREAS, This bill, if passed in its current format, would greatly endanger the lives of our citizens and ignores the impact on victims when offenders are released without an adequate vetting process. This bill would automatically parole an inmate who has served their minimum sentence on the inmate's earliest release date without regard to the offense they committed that landed them in prison or their conduct while in prison.

WHEREAS, Our County recognizes that 23% of parolees and 24% of probationers are re-arrested within one year of release from supervision and 50% of offenders entering prison are resentenced for violating probation or parole. Lastly, 70% of inmates in prison are sentenced for violent and assaultive crimes. See: Michigan Department of Corrections, 2013 Statistical Report.

WHEREAS, The above mentioned statistics show that public safety is compromised by the early release of convicted felons.

WHEREAS, This bill does not divert any realized cost savings to local programming, jails, community corrections, substance abuse disorder treatment, mental health services, jobs or job training for probationer/parolees, or housing. Instead, inmates will be released with an expectation that local resources, especially in the Upper Peninsula, currently do not have the manpower, skills, or money to manage these types of offenders effectively.

WHEREAS, the county commissioners understand the cost of correction have a significant impact on the state budget and there is an ongoing effort to reduce those costs. However the Commissioners do not support putting Michigan's parole system on "auto-pilot" as described in this bill without exceptions carved out for violent offenders and resources redirected to local programming and jails to deal with parolees.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, After being fully informed by our County Administrator, County Prosecutor and law enforcement representatives, and for the reasons stated, the Iron County Board of Commissioners opposes HB 4138 (H-4), presumptive parole, as written and urges you to exempt violent crimes from eligibility. Further, we urge that any savings be directed to the local services that will be burdened by this legislation.

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11-10-15

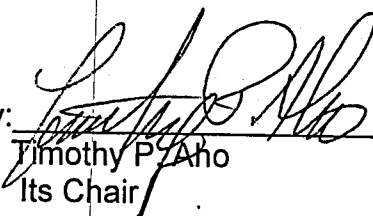
Commissioner Leonoff offered support for the motion and the resolution adopted at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Iron held on November 10, 2015.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: 5
NAYES: 0
ABSENT: none

Resolution Declared Adopted:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF IRON

By: 
Timothy P. Aho
Its Chair

By: 
Diane Hilberg
Its Clerk