



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision

1321 Tandem Ave. NE

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 945-0900

<http://egov.oregon.gov/BOPPPS>

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Senator Prozanski, Chair
The Honorable Senator Thatcher, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Testimony in support of SB 819- *Authorizes the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision and the Psychiatric Security Review Board to make determinations administratively concerning petitions for changes in sex offender risk classifications and relief from the reporting requirement.*

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee:

Under Oregon law, an individual who is required to register as a sex offender (registrant) may petition the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision (Board) for relief from their obligation to register, or for reclassification to a lower Notification Level after a specified period of time set out in statute. Upon receiving such a petition, the Board is responsible for holding a hearing, if the registrant is eligible, to determine whether to grant such a petition.

SB 819 will allow the Board the discretion to decide whether to hold a hearing after receiving a petition for relief or reclassification, or to consider the petition administratively. ORS 163A.125 currently requires the Board to hold a hearing. This bill would amend ORS 163A.125 to provide the Board that discretion. SB 819 ensures that if the attorney general; a district attorney from the jurisdiction of conviction or county residence of registrant; or victim requests a hearing, the Board shall hold a hearing and not decide administratively.

When considering a petition for relief or reclassification, the Board often reviews packets containing hundreds of pages of documents, including supervision records, treatment and polygraph records, financial and employment information, criminal history information, and many others. When a petitioner has met their statutory burden (that they are “statistically unlikely to reoffend and does not pose a threat to the safety of the public”) in the written record alone, and where none of the individuals specified above has requested to appear in a formal hearing, requiring a hearing is unnecessary and inefficient. These types of cases can be decided administratively without risk to public safety. Many Board decisions are already made administratively by reviewing the files and records, voting on the decision, and making a written finding.

Respectfully,

John Bailey, Chairperson

Dylan Arthur, Executive Director