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FACT SHEET

## **LOWER PAROLE CASELOADS EQUALS SAFER COMMUNITIES**

### **LOWERING CASELOADS OF PAROLE OFFICERS ALLOWS FOR BETTER SUPERVISION**

#### **PAROLE OFFICERS ARE UNDER TREMENDOUS STRAIN.**

Now more than ever, tremendous demands are being put on parole resources. In order to avoid perpetuating a revolving door whereby inmates are released into the community only to return to prison shortly thereafter, Texas must tailor its parole system so that parole officers can provide offenders with the tools to aid them in their re-entry into society and better enable them to live responsible lives.

#### **WHAT DOES H.B. 3736 DO?**

House Bill 3736 by Representative McReynolds would establish a maximum level for parole officer caseloads. The bill would require that TDCJ limit the caseload for each parole officer to the following:

- 60 active releasees, if the releasees are not in a specialized program described by Subdivisions (2)-(6);
- 35 active releasees, if the releasees are in the special needs offender program;
- 35 active releasees, if the releasees are in the therapeutic community substance abuse aftercare treatment program;
- 24 active releasees, if the releasees are in the sex offender program;
- 20 active releasees, if the releasees are electronically monitored; and
- 11 active releasees, if the releasees are in the super-intensive supervision program.

#### **H.B. 3736 WILL ENSURE BETTER IMPLEMENTATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND SUCCESS FOR PROJECT RIO.**

Parole officers performing field operations must be able to focus more attention on high-risk parolees. H.B. 3736 would strengthen parole officers' effectiveness in promoting success by freeing up more resources for intense supervision of high-risk individuals during the critical early period of their sentences.

Furthermore, a reduction in caseloads will reduce the likeliness of a parolee absconding, since officers would be able to spend more time tracking and providing close supervision to individuals with a high flight risk, thereby increasing public safety by reducing these individuals' likelihood of recidivating.