

## **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ANALYSIS**

**Bill:** House Bill 492

**Printer's No.:** 968

**Amendment No.:** A00660

**Prepared by:** Gregg Warner

**Summary:** The amendment is the result of further discussions with the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and the Office of Victim Advocate.

The use of “panel or the majority of those board members charged with making the parole release decision” is more consistent with the provisions of the Prisons and Parole Code, Title 61, and more precise. There is no reason for the full board of nine members to hear victim testimony when in the vast majority of cases there is not the need for more than five votes.

The amendment makes clear that records pertaining to victims be kept separate from other records and the records of victims, including current address, telephone number and any other personal information about the victim and the victim’s family members shall be deemed confidential.

The amendment changes the effective to “September 1, 2013, or immediately, whichever is later” to give the parole board and the victim advocate’s office the time they need to implement the changes.

This amendment will make House Bill 492 identical to Senate Bill 508, as amended by the Senate Judiciary Committee.