

HOUSE No. 4607

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to parole.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of chapter 27 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place
3 thereof the following paragraph:-

4 "There shall be in the department, but not subject to its jurisdiction, a parole board,
5 consisting of nine members, to be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the
6 council, for terms of five years. The governor may, with the advice and consent of the council,
7 remove members from the board for cause, upon a written certification of such cause; provided
8 that such member shall have the right to notice and the opportunity for a public hearing before
9 the council relative to such removal."

10 SECTION 2. Said section 4 of said chapter 27, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
11 inserting after the second paragraph the following paragraph:-

12 "At all times, at least three members of the parole board shall have at least five years of
13 experience in fields of psychiatry, psychology, social work, or the treatment of substance use

14 disorder. One of those three members must be a licensed mental health professional, as defined
15 in section 1 of chapter 123.”