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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 59 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY SNYDER, GALLOWAY, McNEILL, CIRESI, JAMES, JOZWIAK,  
IRVIN, NEILSON, STRUZZI AND SANKEY, JANUARY 11, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 11, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and  
3 Parole, further providing for investigation of circumstances  
4 of offense and providing for corrections officer statement,  
5 testimony and participation in hearing.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 6135(a) of Title 61 of the Pennsylvania  
9 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:  
10 § 6135. Investigation of circumstances of offense.

11 (a) Duty to investigate.--The board, on the commitment to a  
12 correctional facility of any person whom the board is given the  
13 power to parole under this chapter, shall consider:

14 \* \* \*

15 (5.1) The written statement or testimony of a  
16 corrections officer submitted under section 6140.1 (relating  
17 to corrections officer statement, testimony and participation  
18 in hearing).

19 \* \* \*

1 Section 2. Title 61 is amended by adding a section to read:  
2 § 6140.1. Corrections officer statement, testimony and  
3 participation in hearing.

4 (a) Duty to provide statement or testimony.--A corrections  
5 officer who has care, custody and control of an inmate under  
6 consideration for parole may provide a written statement to the  
7 board or testify to the board regarding the conduct of the  
8 inmate while in prison.

9 (b) Notice of statement or testimony.--Within 30 days of  
10 receiving notice that an inmate is being considered for parole,  
11 a corrections officer may submit a written statement or notify  
12 the board of the corrections officer's intent to testify in  
13 person as required under subsection (a).

14 (c) Compensation.--A corrections officer who provides a  
15 written statement or testifies to the board as required under  
16 subsection (a) shall do so during the course of that corrections  
17 officer's regular employment and shall be compensated at the  
18 same rate that the corrections officer would be compensated for  
19 conducting the corrections officer's regular duties.

20 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.