

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: Senate Bill 1325

Printer's No.: 1920

Sponsor: Senator Gordner

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill amends section 1732 of the Prisons and Parole Code, Title 61 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, relating to meetings of county jail boards of inspectors, to allow boards in counties of the eighth class to meet quarterly and not necessarily at the county jail.

Summary: Section 1732 governs board meetings for county jail boards of inspectors. The board shall meet monthly or more often if required. The bill requires boards in counties of the eighth class to meet quarterly or more frequently if required.

Section 1732 also requires meetings to be held at the county correctional institution no less than quarterly. The bill gives boards in counties of the eighth class discretion on how often to hold meetings at the county jail.

Effective date

This bill takes effect in 60 days.

Background: The jail facilities in eighth class counties are small with limited capacity. There are not many issues about their management necessitating mandatory monthly board meetings and they may not have the space for board meetings. According to the sponsor, "My bill will allow these boards in counties of the eighth class to hold meetings less frequently. They would meet quarterly [instead of monthly], but would not be prohibited from meeting more frequently, if necessary. It will also permit the board to select an appropriate, adequate meeting location at its discretion."

Eighth class counties

The following counties are eighth class counties: Cameron, Forest, Fulton, Montour, Potter and Sullivan.

Current law

61 Pa.C.S. §1731(b) authorizes any county of the sixth, seventh or eighth class to elect by resolution of the county commissioners to be governed by the provisions relating to boards of prison inspectors. Once the county elects to be governed by the provisions, Senate Bill 1325 provides flexibility to eighth class counties relating to the frequency and location of meetings.