

1 **Senate Bill No. 418**

2 (By Senator Laird)

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4 [Introduced January 25, 2012; referred to the Committee on

5 Government Organization; and then to the Committee on the

6 Judiciary.]

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11 A BILL to amend and reenact §62-12-12 of the Code of West Virginia,

12 1931, as amended, relating to qualification of members of the

13 Parole Board.

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

15 That §62-12-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,

16 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

17 **ARTICLE 12. PROBATION AND PAROLE.**

18 **§62-12-12. Parole board generally.**

19 There shall be a state board of parole, known as the "West

20 Virginia Parole Board". The board shall consist of nine members,

21 each of whom shall have been a resident of this state for at least

22 five consecutive years prior to his or her appointment. No more

23 than five of the board members may at any one time belong to the

24 same political party. The board shall be appointed by the

1 Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.
2 Appointments following the effective date of this section shall be
3 made in such a manner that each congressional district is
4 represented and so that no more than four and no less than two
5 members of the board reside in any one congressional district. No
6 more than two members of the board may reside in any one county.
7 Each member of the board shall have a degree in criminal justice,
8 social work, sociology, psychology or like experience and academic
9 training and shall be otherwise competent to perform the duties of
10 his or her office. The members shall be appointed for overlapping
11 terms of six years. Any member qualified under this section is
12 eligible for reappointment. The members of the board shall devote
13 their full time and attention to their board duties. The Governor
14 shall appoint one of the nine appointed members to serve as
15 chairperson at the Governor's will and pleasure.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to expand the educational degree qualifications for members of the board of parole.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.