



Sponsor Testimony
Representative Dave Greenspan
House Bill 299

Chair Lang, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for offering me the opportunity to give sponsor testimony for House Bill 299.

This is a simple yet important piece of legislation which will extend protections for corrections officers, parole officers, probation officers, and parole board members. Not only does this bill help to keep them safe from being targeted, but it also brings the consequences for crimes against these public servants up to parity with similar crimes against police officers. The language of the bill helps keep them safe, even after their shifts have ended, from those who might wish to cause harm to one of these public servants just because they're doing their duty to keep our communities and prison populations safe.

Under House Bill 299, no person shall purposely cause the death of an off-duty corrections officer, a parole or probation officer, or a parole board member. Anyone who knowingly kills one of these officers or parole board members shall be guilty of aggravated murder. Similarly, committing felonious assault against one of these individuals and targeting them specifically because of the position they hold shall be a first-degree felony. These provisions of House Bill 299 bring the penalties for violent crimes against these public servants in line with the penalties for those same crimes when committed against other law enforcement or military officials as already defined under current law.

Thank you your consideration of the bill and I am available for your questions.