

HB 2499 -- PAROLE HEARINGS

SPONSOR: Hansen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 6 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 7 to 3.

Currently, the use of videoconferencing must not be used if the offender, the victim, or the victim's family objects. This bill removes the offender from the list of individuals who can object. The bill also removes the requirement that the parole board conduct a personal interview with the offender, permitting the interview to be conducted via videoconferencing.

This bill is the same as HB 301 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that conducting video conferencing saves the state approximately \$10,000 per month, and that's with only a little over half of the conferencing being done by video right now. It saves victims and their families from having to travel to the institutions to be there for the hearings.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hansen; Department of Corrections; and Kenny Jones, Division of Probation and Parole.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.