



Hire additional staff to bring parole officers to a legislated 60:1 caseload

In the 80th Legislative Session, HB 3736 was passed to establish a regular caseload ratio of 60:1 (weighted for specialized caseloads) for TDCJ Parole Officers. However, funding was not allocated to hire more officers in order to make the 60:1 caseload ratio a reality. A 2018 survey of Parole Officers found the average caseload for regular supervision to be 92, with some officers

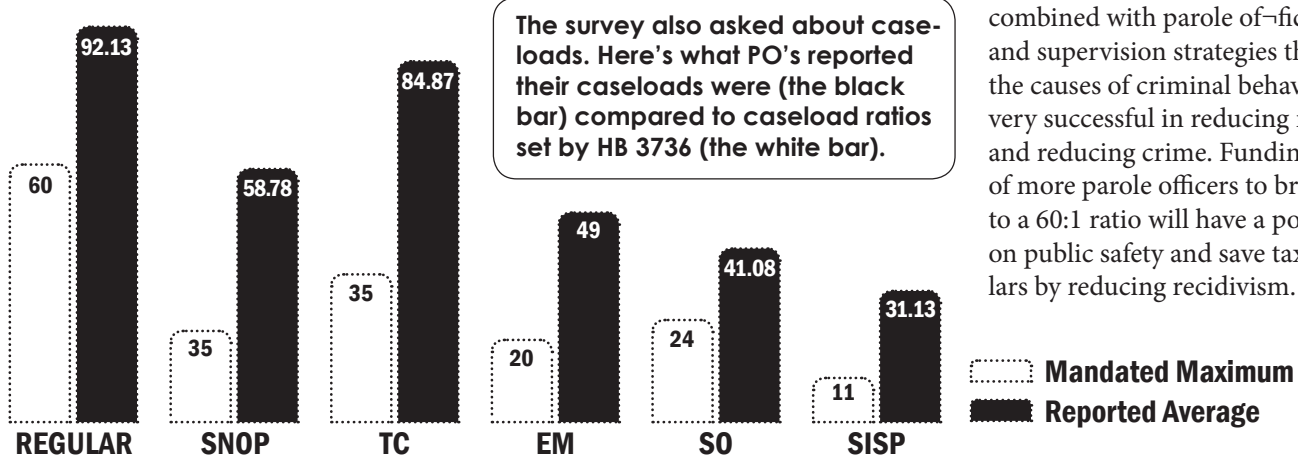
carrying over 120 cases. The caseload reports that TDCJ regularly provides to the LBB are inaccurate and do not reflect reality. TSEU is asking for the Legislature to mandate that an external audit be conducted of Parole caseload averages and how TDCJ reports them.

Since 2009, the number of parolees under TDCJ supervision has increased by 8% while the number of TDCJ Parole Officers has actually decreased

slightly. The high turnover of PO's (recorded at 16.6% in 2018) compounds the problem as PO's who stay on the job have to take over an additional caseloads whenever someone quits. TDCJ included an exceptional item in their 2020-2021 LAR to hire 30 additional parole officers. Although this is a step in the right direction, the agency's request falls extremely short of what's needed to meet the legislated 60:1 caseload ratio. High workloads in the TDCJ-Parole Division erode the ability of our agency to fulfill its mission and decreases morale. There is a definite connection between caseload size, the effectiveness of parole officers and public safety. Research shows that smaller caseloads combined with parole officer training and supervision strategies that address the causes of criminal behavior can be very successful in reducing recidivism and reducing crime. Funding the hiring of more parole officers to bring caseloads to a 60:1 ratio will have a positive impact on public safety and save taxpayer dollars by reducing recidivism.

66% DID NOT have a manageable workload

According to a TSEU survey of TDCJ-parole employees



TSEU ASKS THAT YOU SUPPORT:

A rider to conduct an external audit of TDCJ Parole caseloads and reporting standards

Hiring an additional 150 Parole Officers to match the increase in parolees since 2009