

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 245 of 2008
Section 608
GPS Electronic Tether Program
April 2009

Section 608 of 2008 P.A. 245 requires that the Department of Corrections provide a report for the GPS electronic tether program, including information on:

- Details on the failure rate of parolees for whom GPS tether is utilized, including the number and rate of parolee technical violations, including specifying failures due to committing a new crime that is uncharged but leads to parole termination, and the number and rate of parolee violators with new sentences.
- Information on the factors considered in determining whether an offender is placed on active GPS tether, passive GPS tether, radio frequency tether, or some combination of these or other types of electronic monitoring.
- Monthly data on the number of offenders on active GPS tether, passive GPS tether, radio frequency tether, and any other type of tether.

The use of GPS monitoring allows for the tracking of parolee movement, either actively or passively, in order to determine compliance with supervision plans. To balance public safety interests and available resources, parolees released from prison on or after January 8, 2007, whose current offense requires registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act, shall be monitored on some form of electronic monitoring whenever practical. The Parole Board may not require GPS when medical and/or mental capacity issues make it impractical. In early 2008, the department began phasing out “Passive” GPS by transferring cases to “Active” GPS. As of the end of June 2008, parolees were monitored on “Active” GPS only. GPS monitoring may also be used in addition to RF monitoring as an intervention or sanction for non-compliance with the order for parole for parolees who have breaking and entering-type convictions.

Electronic monitoring shall be used for prisoners granted parole for offenses listed below, including Attempts and Conspiracies to commit these offenses:

- Group 1: Any offense that requires registration under the Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) - GPS for the entire term of parole¹.
- Group 2: A conviction for Failure to Register as a Sex Offender - GPS for the entire term of parole if the offense for which the parolee was required to register was a felony, or twelve months if the offense for which the parolee was required to register was a misdemeanor¹.
- Group 3: A conviction for felony Aggravated Stalking - GPS for the entire term of parole¹.
- Group 4: A conviction for felony Domestic Violence - GPS for a minimum of 12 months, and then RF monitoring for the remainder of the parole term provided the parolee is in compliance with his/her Transition Accountability Plan (TAP)¹.
- Group 5: Any other offender ordered by the Parole Board and identified by the Parole Release Unit - GPS for a minimum of 6 months, and then RF monitoring for a minimum of 6 months provided the parolee is in compliance with his/her TAP¹.

¹ Compliance with the supervision plan is defined as not in violation of the order for parole, special conditions, or the supervision plan, excluding having a balance owed on fees or restitution. Compliance must be for at least (90) ninety continuous days prior to consideration for a reduction in EM. Parolees not in compliance shall not be moved from active GPS to RF monitoring, or from RF monitoring off of monitoring.

During 2008, there were 1,591 GPS activations and 687 terminations. Of the 687 terminations, 87 (12.7%) were for administrative and equipment related reasons. For the remaining 600 terminations, 375 (62.5%) resulted in technical violations, 29 (4.8%) resulted in new sentence failures, and 196 (32.7%) resulted in successful completion of GPS.

Table 1 shows the 2008 end of month populations experienced by each of the Electronic Tether programs.

Table 1 – Monthly Electronic Tether Program Activity

	GPS		RF	Sobrieter	SCRAM
	Active	Passive			
Jan	175	66	1,943	290	209
Feb	202	65	1,946	275	212
Mar	243	57	1,925	300	237
Apr	245	49	1,968	327	226
May	287	38	1,981	343	221
Jun	361	36	1,916	316	212
Jul	548		1,835	349	242
Aug	650		1,827	338	259
Sep	779		1,753	321	310
Oct	938		1,798	340	360
Nov	1,029		1,817	339	380
Dec	1,109		1,793	328	413