

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenny Wilk at 9:05 a.m. on February 28, 2001, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Tom Klein
 Representative Jeff Peterson
 Representative John Toplikar

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
 Rae Anne Davis, Legislative Research
 Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
 Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
 Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Charles Simmons, Secretary of Corrections

Others attending: See Attached

Representative Campbell, Member of the 2001 Public Safety Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Corrections for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 with the noted recommendations (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Kline. Motion carried.

Representative Kline presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Corrections for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 with the noted recommendations (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Minor. Motion carried.

The Committee noted the Governor's recommendation to eliminate all academic educational and substance abuse programs in the inmate education program but did recommend the retention of vocational education programs and community-based substance abuse programs. Regarding the shrinkage rate in the total Department of Corrections, Secretary Simmons related their problem of being unable to hire and train enough personnel to offset numbers of personnel, particularly guards, from being hired away by local government and private correctional institutions. This variation differs from institution to institution with little turnover noted in non-guard positions. Substance abuse and educational programs are staffed by contracted personnel or agencies.

Representative Kline presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for El Dorado Correctional Facility for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried. Representative Hermes abstained.

Representative Kline presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for El Dorado Correctional Facility for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Minor. Motion carried. Representative Hermes abstained.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for Ellsworth Correctional Facility for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for Ellsworth Correctional Facility for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for

Hutchinson Correctional Facility for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for Hutchinson Correctional Facility for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for Lansing Correctional Facility for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Kline. Motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for Lansing Correctional Facility for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 with the noted recommendations (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Kline.

Representative Neufeld moved for an amendment to add language to the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for Lansing Correctional Facility for FY 2002 expressing the Committee's concern regarding the hiring of correctional officers under age 21, a request for continued monitoring of this pilot project at Lansing by the Department of Corrections, and a request from the Secretary of Corrections for a report on the pilot project by Omnibus. Motion was seconded by Representative Wilk. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the overtime issue at Lansing Correctional Facility and noted there had been a decrease in overtime from 1999 to 2000. It was suggested that the Secretary of Corrections be given the latitude to institute regional pay in this particular area due to the difficulty in hiring and retention of correctional employees. With 21 persons currently in training, there will still be a deficit of employees as there will be current employees terminating before the original 21 empty positions are filled. It was suggested that the raising of salaries would counteract the payment of excessive overtime.

Representative Kline moved to amend the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for Lansing Correctional Facility for FY 2002 to authorize Legislative Post Audit to prepare a 100 hour audit on the overtime issue within the Department of Corrections, with the report due to the House Committee on Appropriations by mid-March 2001. Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Neufeld moved to amend the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for Lansing Correctional Facility for FY 2002 by requesting the Secretary of Corrections to return to the House Committee on Appropriations before Omnibus with a regional pay plan which would allow the hiring of correctional officers above the pay plan grid due to the on-going loss of correctional officers to federal, private, and local government entities. Motion was seconded by Representative Schwartz. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed that vacancies may be due to the unsafe working conditions at Lansing Correctional Facility. The question was asked if the unsafe working conditions are due to understaffing.

Representative Feuerborn moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Lansing Correctional Facility for FY 2002 with the noted recommendations and amendments. Motion was seconded by Representative Minor. Motion carried.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

The Committee noted the \$3.00 increase in starting salary for those working with Corrections above those working in the mental health facility. The Governor's recommendations would increase the Corrections starting salary by

\$3.40. This will be noted in the Social Services Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for hospitals for FY 2002.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Norton Correctional Facility for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Norton Correctional Facility for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Topeka Correctional Facility for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Topeka Correctional Facility for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Winfield Correctional Facility for FY 2001 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Kline. Motion carried

Representative Minor presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Winfield Correctional Facility for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Kline. Motion carried

The Committee requested the Legislative Research Department to provide data on the turnover rate in each correctional institution in the state and possible reasons for such turnover.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2001.