

Approved: 3-29-06

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on February 9, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley- excused

Senator John Vratil- excused

Senator Kay O'Connor - excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Connie Burns, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Secretary Roger Werholtz, Kansas Department of Corrections

Others attending:

See attached list.

Secretary Roger Werholtz, Kansas Department of Corrections, provided an overview and update on the Department of Corrections. (Attachments 1) Secretary Werholtz introduced his staff:

Chuck Simmons, Facilities Supervisor

Tim Madden, Legal Counsel

Dennis Williams, Chief Fiscal Officer

Jeremy Barclay, Special Assistant to the Secretary

The Secretary went over the projections for FY05, FY06, and three different scenarios that will decrease prison population which were based on several different assumptions. The Sentencing Commission provided current information this fall and the budget projections were revised for FY07.

The two policy initiatives that account for the slope of the projections are:

SB 123 – the drug treatment bill that provides significant substance abuse treatment as an alternative to incarceration, and is for possession only drug offenders (18 month history for bill.)

Extensive training and emphasis the department has placed on reentry initiatives. This program has been operational in the Topeka community and is now on line in Wichita, and the program is being finalized in Wyandotte County, and it is anticipated further improvement in the slope of the line as the programs are brought on line. The extensive retraining of staff in the facilities and in parole, providing them with different and additional skill set in working with offenders with the goal of cutting recidivism and given the fact that these offenders are going to be getting out of prison and return to the community, the department wants to be sure that this is done in the safest possible way. The reduction in recidivism is reflective of reduced levels of inappropriate behavior in re-offending in the community.

The Reentry Initiative Conference sponsored by Council of State Government (CSG) and held in Wichita last spring, one of the initiatives was a neighborhood proposal that could further reduce parole revocation. What was proposed was targeting two or three neighborhoods within a specific city council district that has significant numbers of offenders returning to that location from prison and through those neighborhood targeted initiatives try and lower parole revocations by 300 per year. CSG predicted that by lowering parole revocations by 300 per year that would lower the population projections by 100 beds. Senator Sam Brownback spoke at the conference and explained the Federal Second Chance Act and that he wanted to see parole revocations cut in half in five years and that he wanted to see it start in Kansas.

Secretary Werholtz explained that the projections did not reflect the two bills in the legislature on sex offenders and that bed space would increase. Housing expansions options were discussed and expansion can be added on to existing correctional facilities. It is always less expensive to add beds to existing facilities, simply because the need to repeat info structure, build brand new medical facilities, brand new food services, and power plants, but there is a point at which it is not cost effective and new expansion construction and operational costs were provided.

In closing the Secretary addressed the rising cost of the medical contract as the population of the prisons is aging.

The secretary will provide the committee with additional information on cost of additional 1000 beds and the reentry initiative added back in.

Staff provided the information requested by Chairman Brungardt on **SB 486** and past legislation on **Sub for SB 77**, The Governor's Task Force on Racial Profiling report and recommendations. (Attachment 2)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. The next scheduled meeting is February 14, 2006.