

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

*Legislative Oversight Committee on Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority
(West Virginia Code §31-20-26)*



January 12, 2015

West Virginia Legislature
Charleston, West Virginia

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to West Virginia Code §31-20-26, the Legislative Oversight Committee on Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority makes the following report to the Legislature during its 2015 Regular Session.

The Committee met seven times during the 2014 Interim Period at the West Virginia State Capitol. Committee members toured Salem Correctional Facility on August 26, 2014.

During the 2014 Interim Period, the Committee received various reports from:

Commissioner Jim Rubenstein- Deputy Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety/Commissioner-West Virginia Division of Corrections;

Joseph DeLong, Executive Director- West Virginia Regional Jail & Correctional Facility Authority;

Stephanie Bond, Director-West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services.

The Committee also received presentations from:

Dennis W. Foreman, Chairman, West Virginia State Parole Board;

John Lopez, Director of Programs for the West Virginia Regional Jail Authority;

Joseph Thornton, Cabinet Secretary of the West Virginia Military Affairs and Public Safety;

Steve M. Crook, Chief of Operations for the West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority;

Denny Dodson, Deputy Director of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services;

Steven O. Dale, Acting Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles;

Kristina Taylor, CPA, Senior Auditor for Post Audit Division, Legislative Auditor's Office;

Paul O'Dell, Deputy Director-West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority.

Major topics for Committee consideration and discussion during the Interim Period included the following:

- The implementation of classes to be offered to inmates in all ten regional jails prior to admittance to Division of Corrections, as outlined in Senate Bill 457 of 2014 and the result of implementation of Senate Bill 371 of 2013;
- The tour of Salem Correctional Facility on August 26, 2014 located in Industrial, West Virginia, during Interims held in Bridgeport, West Virginia;
- The Division of Juvenile Services' work with Pew Charitable Trusts and the Governor's Intergovernmental Task Force on Juvenile Justice;
- The proposed plan to address recruitment, retention and vacancies for correctional employees for the West Virginia Division of Corrections, West Virginia Regional Jail Facility Authority and the Division of Juvenile Services;
- The review of inmate demographics and statistics for total hours of community services offered as part of restorative justice program;
- The review of monthly reports and presentations with representatives of the West Virginia Division of Corrections, West Virginia Regional Jail Facility Authority and the Division of Juvenile Services during interim meetings.

During the 2014 Interim Period, the Committee was informed of the following information of special significance:

- Inmate populations in regional jails increased from 4039 on January 2, 2014 to 4099 on January 6, 2015.
- The number of state-sentenced inmates being housed in regional jails decreased

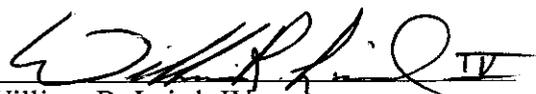
from 1210 to 1100 during this period.

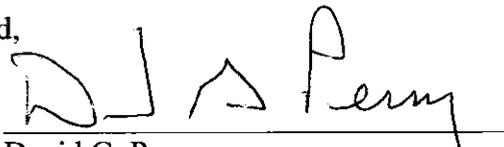
Inmates housed in Regional Jails:

Regional Jail	Inmate Count as of 1/2/14	Inmate Count as of 1/6/2015	Number of State Sentenced Inmates as of 1/2/14.	Number of State Sentenced Inmates as of 1/6/15.
Central (Flatwoods)	278	295	20	23
Eastern (Martinsburg)	408	403	117	48
North Central (West Union)	538	574	83	115
Northern (Moundsville)	286	236	115	80
Potomac Highlands (Augusta)	238	177	110	50
South Central (Charleston)	429	464	148	131
Southern	536	589	68	99
Southwestern (Holden)	354	404	159	184
Tygart Valley (Bellington)	444	385	256	168
Western (Barboursville)	528	572	134	202
Totals	4039	4099	1210	1100

The Committee also moved to submit a Proposed Plan to Address Recruitment, Retention & Vacancies in West Virginia Prisons, Jails and Juvenile services for consideration by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance. The Committee fully endorsed the plan, which contains four main employee recruitment and retention proposals. They are, as follows: an across the board salary increase of \$2,000, an increase of minimum starting salaries and current salaries by \$2,000, a longevity plan, and educational cost reimbursements. The Committee strongly recommended that the Joint Committee adopt this plan, to the extent the budget would allow, so that the Division of Corrections, the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority and the Division of Juvenile Services are better able to recruit and retain correctional employees.

Respectfully submitted,


 William R. Laird, IV
 West Virginia State Senate


 David G. Perry
 West Virginia House of Delegates