



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator Lyda Green
Current Version: HCS CSSB 65 (FIN)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 65

Short Title: Correctional Facility Expansion

Summary:

- Authorizes the Department of Corrections to enter into agreements with Fairbanks North Star Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Bethel, and the Municipality of Anchorage for new or expanded correctional facilities.
- Authorizes the Department of Corrections to enter into an agreement for correctional facility space and services in the City of Whittier with a third-party contractor after a feasibility study to determine whether the state can provide these services for the same or less cost than a third-party operator. It requires a competitive bid process, adherence to the state procurement procedures, and approval of the facility design by the Commissioner of Corrections prior to entering into an agreement.
- Authorizes issuance of certificates of participation for upgrade, expansion or replacement of jails in Dillingham and Kodiak dependent upon a community match of \$1.5 million.
- Requires that all correctional officers, probation officers and parole officers be certified by the Alaska Police Standards Council.

Benefits:

- Allows the State of Alaska to bring its prisoners back from Arizona, directing this money into the State economy and providing jobs to hundreds of Alaskans.
- Responsible compromise plan for addressing overcrowding, deteriorating physical plants, and anticipated growth in prisoner population.
- Ensures local involvement in the process, guarantees open and fair competition and creates a level playing field between the public and private sectors.
- Will result in consistency in facility design and operation.

Background:

Alaska's 15 in-state prison facilities are between 97 and 102 percent occupancy at all times, with more than 700 Alaskan prisoners housed in Arizona. With additional prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, and "get tough on crime" agendas, the number of inmates will continue to increase at the rate of approximately 200 inmates per year, or about 600 to 800 inmates by 2009. Prison overcrowding exposes inmates and staff to the risk of serious injury and death, and exposes the State to civil liability, as well as judicial intervention into the management prerogatives of the executive branch. If construction of new facilities is authorized this year and allowed to proceed immediately, doors can open in 2 to 3 years.