



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Legislative Fiscal Analyst
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DATE: June 8, 2006
TO: Legislative Finance Committee
FROM: Corrections Long-term Solutions "bulldog" group
RE: Meeting held June 7, 2006

The Corrections Long-term Solutions "bulldog" group met Wednesday, June 7, 2006. Present were:

Representatives Hawk and Callahan
Senator Ryan
Senator Bales was unable to attend

Others present were:

Legislative Staff: Pat Gervais, Legislative Fiscal Division; Cassie Rice-Wetzel, Secretary; and Sheri Heffelfinger, Research Analyst
Department of Corrections staff: Director Slaughter; Kara Sperle, budget; Mike Ferriter, Community Corrections; and Gary Hamel, Health Services and Planning
Office of Budget and Program Planning staff: Brent Doig

A tape of the meeting is available by contacting the Legislative Fiscal Division.

The meeting was conducted in an informal manner. The Department of Corrections (DOC) provided comments and information regarding:

- o A recent press article indicating that Montana had the largest rate of increase in incarceration in the nation during the past year
- o Funding shortfalls and populations that exceed budgeted levels
- o Rate increases for contract beds exceeding the 2 percent per year funded by the legislature
- o Options outlined in the February 22, 2006 correspondence addressed to Pat Gervais, Legislative Fiscal Division regarding possible long term solutions to correctional population issues

The group also received a copy of the Corrections Advisory Council, Offender Services Study that will be presented to the Legislative Finance Committee at its June 8 and 9 meeting.

After discussion of various options included in the February 22, 2006 correspondence from DOC, the group decided to delay action until information from the June 19 meeting of the

Corrections Advisory Council Study Committee and the June 27 meeting of the Corrections Advisory Council were available for review and consideration. It was the consensus of the group to develop recommendations regarding options for consideration by the full committee and forward them to the LFC at its October 2006 meeting.

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