

XIV. Department of Corrections--Michael J. Sullivan, Secretary

The department requests supplements from the Committee's appropriation reserves under s. 20.865(4)(a) to the following appropriations to provide for a special probation and parole absconder unit in southeastern Wisconsin:

- 1) \$668,700 GPR and 26.0 FTE GPR positions in 1997-98 and \$1,015,300 GPR and 26.0 FTE GPR positions in 1998-99 in the services for community corrections appropriation under s. 20.410(1)(b), and;
- 2) \$34,000 GPR in 1997-98 and \$10,300 GPR in 1998-99 in the general program operations appropriation s. 20.410(1)(a).

Governor's Recommendation

Approve the plan and the funding and positions requested by the Department of Corrections to establish a probation and parole absconder unit in Milwaukee County. If approved, the annualized cost (\$1,025,600 GPR and 26.0 FTE positions) will be built into DOC's base in the 1999-2001 budget.



TOMMY G. THOMPSON
GOVERNOR
MARK D. BUGHER
SECRETARY

Date: December 18, 1997
To: Members, Joint Committee on Finance
From: Mark D. Bugher, Secretary
Department of Administration
Subject: Section 13.10 Request from the Department of Corrections relating to
Creating a Probation and Parole Absconder Unit in Milwaukee County

Request

The department requests supplements from the committee's appropriation reserves [s. 20.865(4)(a)] to the following appropriations to provide for a special probation and parole absconder unit in southeastern Wisconsin:

- (1) \$668,700 GPR and 26.0 FTE GPR permanent positions in 1997-98 and \$1,015,300 GPR and 26.0 FTE GPR permanent positions in 1998-99 in the services for community corrections appropriation under s. 20.410(1)(b), and;
- (2) \$34,000 GPR in 1997-98 and \$10,300 GPR in 1998-99 in the general program operations appropriation under s. 20.410(1)(a).

Background

1997 Wisconsin Act 27 provided a reserve of \$702,700 GPR in fiscal year 1998 and \$1,025,600 GPR in fiscal year 1999 in the Joint Committee on Finance's supplemental appropriation for DOC to create an absconder unit in southeastern Wisconsin. The funding is to be released after the Committee approves a plan and budget submitted by DOC for the absconder unit. It was the intent of the Committee to provide the necessary position authority when the plan is approved.

Analysis

Approximately 19% or 3,800 of the 20,000 probation/parole offenders under DOC supervision in Milwaukee County are not reporting to their supervising agents.

DOC has developed a plan (see attachment) for a special absconder unit in Milwaukee County which will increase public safety by tracking, locating and apprehending probation and parole offenders who fail to report to community supervision. DOC proposes to create a unit consisting of 20 probation/parole agents, 2 correctional field supervisors, one program assistant supervisor and 3 program assistants. The unit would be staffed 17 hours a day from 7 AM to midnight, seven

days a week. The agents will actively search for absconders and escapees by coordinating with and using the resources of the community, such as home and family visits, local law enforcement agencies, employers, the Department of Revenue, telephone companies, the post office and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Assuming initially that there are 3,800 absconders evading supervision in Milwaukee County, the ratio is 190 absconders to each agent under DOC's attached plan. This compares to a normal supervision ratio of approximately 80 probationers and parolees to each agent. Upon locating an absconding offender, agents will be responsible for apprehending the offender and following through on the proper disposition of the case.

DOC is requesting the transfer of funding from the Committee's supplemental appropriation and expenditure authority for the following funding and permanent positions for the absconder unit:

	<u>FTE</u>	<u>FY98</u>	<u>FY99</u>
Salary	26.0	\$304,900	\$610,100
Turnover		-9,000	-18,000
Fringe		114,600	229,300
Vehicle leases		12,700	21,700
Supplies and services		78,000	108,000
Training		10,000	
IT one-time		2,300	
One-time		135,600	
Moving costs		10,500	
Vehicle modification		3,300	
Vaccines		2,600	
Internal services		5,100	10,300
Rent		31,200	62,400
Pagers		900	1,800
TOTALS	26.0	\$702,700	\$1,025,600

The above request provides funding for 6 months in FY98 which will allow the absconder unit to begin operating in January of 1998.

DOC will collect and maintain data and develop specific performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the unit and make changes as needed.

Recommendation

Approve the plan and the funding and positions requested by the Department of Corrections to establish a probation and parole absconder unit in Milwaukee County. If approved, the annualized cost (\$1,025,600 GPR and 26.0 FTE positions) will be built into DOC's base in the 1999-2001 budget.

Prepared by: Roger Fetterly
266-2213

ABSCONDER UNIT - STRIKE FORCE PROGRAM STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

Recognizing that offenders on community supervision who do not comply with the conditions of their supervision pose a potential risk to the safety of the public, the Governor recommended the creation of an absconder unit in southeastern Wisconsin in the 1997-99 biennial budget request. 1997 Wisconsin Act 27 placed \$702,700 GPR in FY 98 and \$1,025,600 GPR in FY 99 in the Joint Committee on Finance's appropriation, reserved for a special probation and parole absconder unit in southeastern Wisconsin. This funding could be released to the Department of Corrections (DOC) after the Committee approved a plan and budget for the special unit.

TARGET POPULATION

The Division of Community Corrections has over 20,000 probation/parole and intensive sanctions offenders under its supervision in Milwaukee County. Current Division staff operate out of six area offices in the greater Milwaukee area.

Approximately 19% of probation/parole offenders and intensive sanctions inmates are not reporting to their agents, thus not participating in supervision and are enjoying anonymity in the community. Although the Department of Corrections issues warrants for the arrest of these offenders, current staffing resources (as high as 80 offenders per agent) are not adequate for an active search for these individuals.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Department's goals for the creation of this new unit include:

- Increasing public safety;
- Improving the accountability of offenders for the conditions and rules of supervision imposed by the Courts and the Department; and,
- Enhancing collaboration between the Department and local law enforcement agencies in the apprehension of non-compliant offenders.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Department's long and short term objectives for this new unit includes:

- Increasing public safety by reducing the number of offenders who are not complying with reporting requirements, eliminating anonymity of the offenders in the community and revoking the supervision of those offenders who do are not amenable to supervision.
- Improving accountability of offenders for the conditions and rules of supervision by making sure the offenders report regularly, pay restitution, submit to urinalysis screens, and participate in work, school or community service.

- Enhancing collaboration between the Department and local law enforcement agencies by sharing information on offenders and jointly participating in neighborhood and community policing (i.e. ride-alongs, roll calls, etc.).

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

In a proactive effort to increase public safety, the Department of Corrections is recommending the release of funds to create an absconder unit in Milwaukee. This unit will track, locate and apprehend offenders who fail to be available for community supervision.

The unit will consist of 20.00 FTE Probation/Parole Agents, 2.00 FTE Corrections Field Supervisors, 1.00 FTE Program Assistant Supervisor and 3.00 FTE Program Assistants. Work hours for this unit will be 7:00 A.M. to midnight. Six agents will be on duty at any given time during a 16 hour day, seven days per week. We envision these agents working 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. to midnight shifts.

Offenders fail to report during various stages of their supervision. Some start their supervision period by never reporting to the assigned agent after being placed on probation by the court. Coordination with the Intake Unit will be maintained to obtain locator information. Staff of the absconder unit will then personally contact these individuals by phone or in person in an effort to establish contact standards.

The absconder unit will also be responsible for gathering locator information on offenders who are not complying with reporting instructions. Information such as last known address, phone number and employer can be obtained from sources such as the DOC offender file, Wisconsin Department of Revenue, telephone companies, U.S. Postmaster, Department of Motor Vehicles, and etc.

Agents will actively search for offenders in absconder or escape status. "Wanted" flyers will be developed and distributed to local law enforcement officers. Face-to-face visits will be made to known family members and friends of offenders who are in absconder or escape status. Former employers will be contacted when information suggests that these offenders are continuing employment or have just recently terminated employment. Agents will work cooperatively with police in an attempt to locate absconders (i.e. ride-along and neighborhood policing efforts).

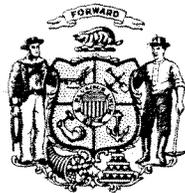
Agents and program assistants will make frequent contacts with local jails to ascertain if absconders are currently in custody or have recently been in custody. Jail booking data is a resource on residence, work and collateral information. Local law enforcement can also be used to obtain copies of fingerprints and photographs of offenders. This type of information will be kept on file in the absconder unit to be used in locating the offenders.

Once an offender is located, agents in this unit will be responsible for apprehending the offender following through on proper disposition of the case.

Clerical staff in the unit will be responsible for verifying violation and custody dates, calculating discharge dates on reinstatements, typing correspondence to institutions, collateral agencies and out-of-state law enforcement agencies on detainers, and providing support services to the agents and unit supervisor staff of this unit. This unit will be the source of information for local law enforcement agencies, departmental staff and the public regarding the whereabouts and status of absconders.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

This unit will be responsible for maintaining data regarding when and how an offender/inmate enters the unit as an absconder or escapee, which steps were taken to locate the offender, when and how the offender is located and apprehended and the disposition. Further data regarding repeat absconding will be maintained by the unit. This information will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the unit and make changes as needed. The Department will develop specific performance measures.



Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Michael J. Sullivan
Secretary

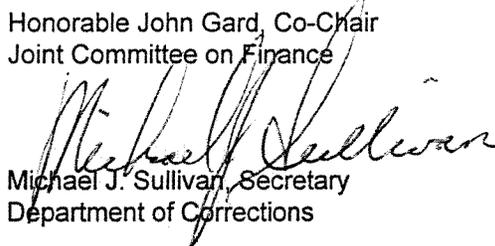
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State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections

November 19, 1997

TO: Honorable Brian B. Burke, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

Honorable John Gard, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: 
Michael J. Sullivan, Secretary
Department of Corrections

RE: S. 13.10 Request

The Department of Corrections (DOC) requests the following reallocations to provide, staff, training and operating costs for a special probation and parole absconder unit to be located in southeastern Wisconsin.

Transfer \$702,700 GPR in FY 98 and \$1,025,600 GPR in FY 99 from the Joint Committee on Finance appropriation S. 20.864(4)(a) to the following DOC appropriations:

\$668,700 GPR in FY 98 and \$1,015,300 GPR in FY 99 to S. 20.410(1)(b).

\$34,000 GPR in FY 98 and \$10,300 GPR in FY 99 to S. 20.410(1)(a).

It is also requested that the authorized FTE for the Department in s. 20.410(1)(b) is increased by 26.00 FTE in both years of the biennium.

Background

1997 Wisconsin Act 27 placed \$702,700 GPR in 1997-98 and \$1,025,600 GPR in 1998-99 in the Joint Committee on Finance's appropriation, reserved for a special probation and parole absconder unit in southeastern Wisconsin. This funding could be released after the Joint Committee on Finance approved a plan and budget for the special unit submitted by the Department to the Committee.

Plan and Budget

The Department has developed a plan for a special absconder unit in Milwaukee County which will increase public safety by tracking, locating and apprehending offenders who fail to be available for community supervision. A program description of this unit is attached for the Committee's review.

The staffing requirements for this special unit include 20.00 FTE probation and parole agents, 2.00 FTE corrections field supervisors, 1.00 FTE program assistant supervisor and 3.00 FTE program assistants.

It is anticipated that salary and fringe related costs for this unit will be approximately \$410,500 in FY 98 and \$821,400 in FY 99. One time start-up costs for furniture, computers, IT setup, vaccinations and vehicle safety equipment are estimated to be approximately \$164,300. Additional expenditures for supplies and services and rent are estimated to be approximately \$127,900 in FY 98 and \$204,200 in FY 99. These projected expenditures assume startup of this unit in January of 1998. Annualized costs for this unit are estimated to be approximately \$1,025,600.

Summary

The Department of Corrections requests the transfer of \$702,700 GPR in FY 98 and \$1,025,600 GPR in FY 99 from the Joint Committee on Finance appropriation 20.865(4)(a) to DOC in accordance with provisions of 1997 Wisconsin Act 27. The Department also requests an increase of the authorized FTE by 26.00 FTE in each year of the biennium.

Cc: Ave M. Bie Michael S. Rogowski
Mary Cassady Lucie Widzinski-Pollock
William Grosshans Roger Fetterly

Attachment

ABSCONDER UNIT - STRIKE FORCE PROGRAM STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

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