



KEVIN PETERSEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Chairman Schraa and honorable members of the Assembly Committee on Corrections;

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 811 – reimbursement to the village of Redgranite for local law enforcement investigation services to a correctional institution and making an appropriation.

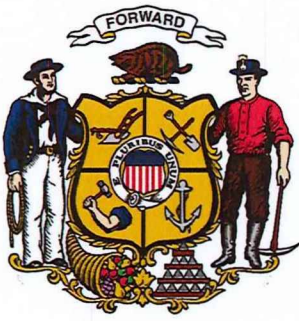
The Village of Redgranite Police Department is the main investigator of criminal activity at the state owned Redgranite Correctional Facility (RGCI). The Village's police department currently has two full time and two half time officers.

The Village of Redgranite Police Dept. responded to RGCI over 230 times during the last 5 years requiring a law enforcement response and investigative follow-up. The Department of Corrections (DOC) does not currently reimburse the village for any investigative work.

Waupun, Columbia, and Boscobel all get reimbursed for calls to state facilities. In our current budget the Village of Allouez received \$60,000 to cover costs associated with calls to the Green Bay Correctional Institute, because like Redgranite it is not included in the program that reimburses Waupun, Columbia, and Boscobel.

When there is an episode whether criminal or not at the Redgranite Correctional Institute, the Village must provide investigative service taking one or more of their officers off of the village streets. Not only does that create an unsafe situation for the residents, the village police department is not being reimbursed for their time.

AB 811 provides \$8,000 for the Department of Corrections (DOC) in Fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for the purpose of reimbursing the Village of Redgranite for actual expenses associated with providing law enforcement and investigative services to a correctional institute.



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

Testimony for the Assembly Committee on Corrections

Thursday, February 13, 2020

AB 811/ SB 781 reimbursement to the village of Redgranite for local law enforcement investigation services to a correctional institution and making an appropriate

Thank you Chairman and committee members for the opportunity to provide informational testimony on AB 811/SB 781.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has 37 facilities operated by the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) and one site (with two facilities) operated by the Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC). These facilities are operated on 24/7/365 basis. Additionally, the Division of Community Corrections (DCC) also works in 101 offices located throughout the state, where adults under supervision can go to meet with their assigned agent. The DOC is located all over of the State of Wisconsin, and like any other state agency, depends upon local governments to provide first responder services to our facilities and offices.

Specific to law enforcement related issues, when an incident occurs that requires a criminal investigation, the DOC is not authorized to conduct those investigations. Moreover, an outside entity to conduct those investigations is necessary to prevent conflicts of interest. Therefore, the important work of criminal investigations lies with the local law enforcement authority. Law enforcement also has the authority to submit a criminal case for charges to the local district attorney's office.

The Municipal Services Payments (MSP) program managed by the Department of Administration (DOA) was created to cover routine costs typically paid via property taxes, and this includes fire, police, and solid waste services provided by a municipality. The MSP program is funded by a dedicated appropriation that has a set budget, and reimbursements are prorated and cover approximately 35% of total claims. This reimbursement is paid only to villages, towns, and cities, but not counties.

The DOC recognizes the unique impact that our correctional facilities can have on a local government and its first responder resources, and can appreciate why the community of Redgranite is seeking these funds. Given that our facilities and offices span across the state and have impacts on the local governments where those facilities are located, the Department is interested in discussing what a statewide, equitable solution would look like to this issue.

Thank you for your time.

Paulina de Haan, Legislative Advisor
Office of the Secretary