



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #287

Funding and Positions for Treatment Staff at the Robert E. Ellsworth and Drug Abuse Correctional Centers (Corrections -- Adult Institutions)

[LFB 2009-11 Budget Summary: Page 218, #6]

CURRENT LAW

The Department of Corrections currently operates a 55-bed earned release program for female inmates at the minimum-security Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center, and a 130-bed operating-while-intoxicated (OWI) program at the Drug Abuse Correctional Center.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$338,900 GPR in 2009-10 and \$432,300 GPR in 2010-11 and 7.0 GPR positions annually to expand the earned release at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center and the OWI program at the Drug Abuse Correctional Center.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The earned release program at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center (REECC) provides substance abuse treatment for eligible inmates. If authorized by the court, inmates may be released to parole or extended supervision if the Department determines that the inmate has successfully completed the six-month program. Further, the Department operates a 130-bed OWI program at the Drug Abuse Correctional Center (DACC) for offenders convicted of driving under the influence five or more times.

2. Assembly Bill 75 would provide \$338,900 GPR in 2009-10 and \$432,300 GPR in 2010-11 and 7.0 GPR positions annually to expand the programs by 20 beds at each facility. The new staffing would include: (a) at REECC, 1.0 correctional sergeant, 1.0 social worker, 1.0

treatment specialist, and 1.0 office operations associate; and (b) at DACC, 1.0 social worker, 1.0 treatment specialist, and 1.0 office operations associate. The additional staffing appears to be consistent with AODA programming provided at the facilities.

3. While expanding the programs would allow more offenders to benefit from receiving treatment, given the current state fiscal crisis, the Committee may wish to delete this provision. As a result, the Department would continue to operate the programs at their current levels. [Alternative 3] Alternatively, to balance fiscal concerns with providing additionally programming, the Committee could provide funding to expand the programs, but beginning in the second year of the biennium. Under this alternative, funding of \$338,900 GPR and 7.0 GPR positions would be provided in 2010-11. [Alternative 2]

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$338,900 GPR in 2009-10 and \$432,300 GPR in 2010-11 and 7.0 GPR positions annually for to expand the earned release at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center and the OWI program at the Drug Abuse Correctional Center.

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation to provide \$338,900 GPR and 7.0 GPR positions in 2010-11 to expand the earned release program at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center and the OWI program at the Drug Abuse Correctional Center.

ALT 2	Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions
GPR	- \$432,300	0.00

3. Delete provision.

ALT 3	Change to Bill	
	Funding	Positions
GPR	- \$771,200	- 7.00

Prepared by: Chris Carmichael