



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #376

### **Transfer SVPs from WRC to SRSTC and Close WRC Units (DHS -- Care Facilities)**

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 244, #2]

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#### **CURRENT LAW**

The Wisconsin Resource Center (WRC) near Oshkosh provides specialized mental health treatment services to convicted felons who are referred to WRC by the Department of Corrections. In addition, WRC has three staffed units that provide services to patients who are committed as sexually violent persons (SVPs) under Chapter 980 of the statutes. The Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center (SRSTC) in Mauston provides services exclusively to patients committed as SVPs.

2007 Act 20 authorized funding and positions to staff four SVP treatment units at SRSTC. However, these four units have remained vacant due to slower than projected growth in the SVP population during the past several years. The three SVP units at WRC served an average of 83 patients per month in the first eight months of fiscal year 2010-11. SRSTC served an average of 284 inmates during the same period.

#### **GOVERNOR**

Reduce funding by \$4,833,300 GPR in 2011-12 and by \$5,800,000 GPR in 2012-13 and delete 59.25 GPR positions, beginning in 2011-12, to reflect savings that would result by transferring SVPs from three units at the WRC in Oshkosh to vacant units at the SRSTC in Mauston. DHS would consolidate the SVP treatment programs by transitioning SVPs at WRC into the four SVP units at SRSTC during the 2011-13 biennium. The three SVP units at WRC would remain vacant and unstaffed.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Currently, SRSTC treats approximately 285 SVPs per month and has four vacant SVP units, for which staff was authorized as part of 2007 Act 20. Due to lower than expected growth in the SVP population, these four units have remained vacant and unstaffed. However, the positions for these four units at SRSTC are fully funded in the Governor's bill. WRC serves approximately 422 individuals per month. Only 83 of these individuals are SVPs, the remaining 340 are inmates with mental illness. The purpose of the provision would be to consolidate all SVPs and SVP treatment staff in one location, designed for that purpose.

2. DHS expects most of the 59.25 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions that would be vacated from SVP units at WRC would take positions at the new unit for female inmates, which is expected to open in September 2011. However, approximately 10.50 of the 59.25 positions currently working on the SVP units at WRC would not have equivalent positions to move to on the female unit.

3. The funding reduction in the bill reflects the administration's estimates of savings of salary and fringe benefit costs that would be realized by eliminating 95.25 full time equivalent (FTE) positions at WRC in 2011-12. The estimate assumes that all of these positions would be vacant beginning September 1, 2011, so that 10 months of savings would occur in 2011-12 and 12 months of savings would occur in 2012-13. Eliminating these positions would result in savings totaling \$4,833,300 GPR and \$5,800,000 GPR in 2011-12 and 2012-13, respectively.

4. However, the administration's funding calculation was based on a proposal DHS included in its September, 2010, biennial budget request. Since that time, DHS has determined that the position savings associated with closing the three SVP units at WRC would be 59.25 positions, rather than 95.25 positions. DHS has determined that 36.0 positions that were originally identified by DHS in its budget request currently provide care to non-SVP units and would, therefore, need to remain at WRC once all of the SVP patients are transferred to SRSTC. Based on this information, the Governor's budget would delete 59.25 positions at WRC. However, the administration did not revise the funding change for this item to reflect the reduced savings that would be generated as a result of maintaining the 36.0 positions at WRC.

6. In order to maintain funding for these 36.0 positions, funding in the bill would need to be increased by \$2,194,400 GPR in 2011-12 and \$2,064,400 GPR in 2012-13. DHS supports this change to the bill.

7. However, if the Committee approves this item without change, DHS will need to absorb \$4,258,000 GPR in funding reductions in the appropriation that supports these two facilities in the 2011-13 biennium. This funding shortfall equals approximately 2.1% in 2011-12 and 2.2% in 2012-13 of the total estimated costs of operating these facilities, based on the Governor's budget recommendations for SRSTC and WRC (approximately \$97.8 million in 2011-12 and \$98.3 million in 2012-13).

8. DHS indicates that it would manage the funding shortfall in the bill for SRSTC and WRC by maintaining position vacancies and delaying hiring for new positions at these facilities. For

this reason, the Committee could adopt the Governor's recommended funding for this item, which would require the agency to realize other savings at these facilities to avoid overspending in the appropriation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the Governor's recommended funding and position authority for WRC.
2. Increase GPR funding by \$2,194,400 GPR in 2011-12 and by \$2,064,400 GPR in 2012-13 to reflect a reestimate of costs associated with the Governor's proposal to delete 59.25 positions at WRC.

<b>ALT 2</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>
GPR	\$4,258,800

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