

EXHIBIT C1

APPROVED DECEMBER 10, 2019

SENATE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS MEETING JOINTLY

Monday, September 23, 2019

The Senate and House Interim Committees on City, County, and Local Affairs met on Monday, September 23, 2019, at 2:00 p.m., at the Benton Event Center, 17322 Interstate 30 North, Benton, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Senators Alan Clark, Stephanie Flowers, and Gary Stubblefield, Senate Chair. Representatives Lanny Fite, House Chair; Justin Boyd, Karilyn Brown, Cameron Cooper, Carol Dalby, Spencer Hawks, Mike Holcomb, Marcus Richmond, Johnny Rye

Other members present: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Trent Garner, and Kim Hammer. Representatives Steve Hollowell

The meeting was called to order by Representative Lanny Fite. Legislators in attendance made a brief introduction.

Motion to Consideration Approval of the August 21, 2019, Meeting Meetings [Exhibit C]

Representative L. Fite made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 21, 2019. The motion was seconded by Senator Stubblefield, and without objection, the motion carried.

Discussion and Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2019-132

[Exhibit D]

2019-132 by Representative Lanny Fite – “Requesting that the House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs conduct an interim study regarding the privatization of electronic waste management in Arkansas”

Representative L. Fite gave a brief explanation of the ISP. Representative L. Fite made a motion to adopt ISP 2019-132. The motion was seconded by Senator Stubblefield and, without objection, the motion carried.

Discussion of Reimbursement Rates for State Inmates Being Housed in County Jails

Mr. Solomon Graves, Chief of Staff, Arkansas Department of Correction, Judge David Hudson, Sebastian County, Mr. John Montgomery, Sheriff, Baxter County, and Ms. Lindsey Baily, Legal Counsel, Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC), were recognized.

Issues Included in the Discussion:

- Currently, approximately 1,700 to 1,800 housed in county jails
- Reimbursement rates for state inmates being housed in county jails and overcrowding regional jails
- Number of inmates held in county jail that are sentenced to prison and waiting for a vacant prison bed
- Software issues
- Phase out use of the database system—plans in place to eliminate system in 2019
- Reimbursement rate of \$30 per day for state prisoners
- 2017 reimbursement rate \$71.48; 2016 reimbursement rate \$53.17, and 2015 Reimbursement rate of \$47.90 – cost in upward trend
- Wide fluctuation of medical and program costs in prisons
- Cost of \$36 per day to contract out of state
- Problems with Act 570 – did not add more probation officers

Referencing **Exhibit E2**, Judge Hudson discussed the reimbursement rates for state inmates being housed in county jails/overcrowding and regional jails. Notably, the Sebastian County jail has been running over its rated inmate population capacity for the past seven and a half years. There is a partnership between the State Prison System and Community Corrections Parole System with the county jails as an ongoing partnership in the operation of the justice system. A primary point in this proposal and the proposal to review the reimbursement rate is to create a more equitable cost reimbursement which also may assist in addressing the overcrowded condition of many county jails in the State.

Discussion of Overcrowding and Regional Jails

Judge Klay McKinney, Bradley County; Judge Robert Akin, Drew County; Judge David Hudson, Sebastian County; and Mr. Mark Whitmore, Chief Legal Counsel, AAC, were recognized.

Issues Included in the Discussion

- Population projections – 15,942 inmates; 10 year report in 2018—in house population 19,947 increase by 4,004
- Regional jails
- Drugs crossing the border increases crime rate
- Advocates for drug, veterans and mental health courts
- Need for robust access to opioid treatment

Referencing **Exhibit F4**, Mr. Whitmore, discussed various topics that included:

- Backup of 1,600-1,800 prisoners involves Emergency Powers Act
- Growth in correction facilities
- Crisis Stabilization Unit
- Decide what crime rate will be tolerated
- Address capacity issues

Mr. Graves will provide the 21-day reimbursement rule information and the population projection inflation rate to committee staff. Mr. Graves mentioned since 2015, the Department of Correction added 1,350 beds through the system and will an additional 235.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.