

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-121

REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS STUDY THE POPULATION OF INMATES BEING HOUSED IN COUNTY JAILS, THE COST OF INMATES' BEING HELD IN COUNTY JAILS, THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE AVAILABLE TO COUNTY JAILS, THE REASONS BEHIND OVERCROWDING IN COUNTY JAILS, AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF OVERCROWDING IN COUNTY JAILS.

WHEREAS, overcrowding in county jails is an ongoing problem in the criminal justice system, with more persons sentenced to the Division of Correction than the division is able to house at one time; and

WHEREAS, county jails are reimbursed at approximately thirty dollars (\$30.00) per day to house a person awaiting transport to the division, but this amount is inadequate to fully compensate a county jail for the costs associated with housing that person; and

WHEREAS, housing a person awaiting transport to the division reduces the ability of a county jail to hold other persons sentenced to incarceration in a county jail for misdemeanor offenses or violations, as well as the ability of a county jail to house arrested persons; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs is requested to study the population of inmates being housed in county jails, the costs of inmates' being held in county jails, the reimbursement rate available to county jails, the reasons behind overcrowding in county jails, and possible alternatives to address the problem of overcrowding in county jails,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs study the population of inmates being housed in county jails, the cost of inmates' being held in county jails, the reimbursement rate available to county jails,

1 the reasons behind overcrowding in county jails, and possible alternatives to
2 address the problem of overcrowding in county jails.

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5 Respectfully submitted,

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9 Representative Justin Boyd

10 District 77

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15 Prepared by: BPG/BPG

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