



North Carolina Department of Correction

214 West Jones Street • 4201 MSC • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4201

Phone: (919) 716-3700 • Fax: (919) 716-3794

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Alvin W. Keller, Jr.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Phillip E. Berger
Senator Peter S. Brunsletter
Senator Neal Hunt
Representative Jeff Barnhart
Representative N. Leo Daughtry
Representative W. David Guice
Representative Shirley B. Randleman
Senator Harry Brown
Senator Thom Goolsby
Senator Richard Stevens
Representative Harold Brubaker
Representative Mitch Gillespie
Representative Linda P. Johnson
Representative Thomas R. Tillis

FROM: Jennie L. Lancaster, Chief Deputy Secretary

RE: Reimburse Counties for Housing and Extraordinary Medical Costs
for inmates, Parolees, and Post-Release Supervisees Awaiting Transfer to
State Prison System [Section 18.5 - Session Law 2011-145]

DATE: October 18, 2011

Pursuant to Section 18.5 - Session Law 2011-145 (House Bill 200) the Department of Correction is to report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Corrections, Crime Control and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees, and the Chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety on the expenditure of funds to reimburse counties for prisoners awaiting transfer to the state prison system and on its progress in reducing jail backlog. N.C.G.S. §148-29 authorizes the Department to pay \$40 per day to counties for persons awaiting transfer to the state prison system.

The Department incurred \$5,873,280 for the FY 2010-2011 in backlog expenditures for inmates awaiting transfer to prison. During the first quarter of FY 2011-2012 ending September 30, the Department has incurred no jail backlog expenditures.

The Department continues to maintain significant progress in reducing the jail backlog. Initiatives continue to include the processing of short term felons at designated diagnostic centers. Also, the Department continues to implement additional transfer runs from each



diagnostic center to assure that offenders who complete processing are transferred in a timely manner. These options will continue as required to manage the jail backlog.

The Department anticipates that maintaining the current level of jail backlog reductions may become more difficult. Factors that may affect the backlog include the closure of four minimum custody prison facilities, recent reductions in diagnostic center staff, and the proposed reduction in admissions as a result of the Justice Reinvestment Act that will not take effect until January, 2012.

Department of Correction staff members are available if further information is requested.

JLL:BSB:jbk

cc: Meghan Brown
Melvin Lee
John Poteat
Douglas Holbrook
Kristine Leggett
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General Assembly Legislative Library