

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:30 A.M. on January 16, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Norman Furse, Revisor Emeritus  
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes  
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means  
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Helen Pedigo, Executive Director, Kansas Sentencing Commission  
Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Helen Pedigo, Executive Director, Kansas Sentencing Commission, who presented an update on Fiscal Year 2007 Adult Inmate Prison Population Projections (Attachment 1). Ms. Pedigo addressed the present prison population, the admission trends and projections for the next ten years. She noted that the current bed capacity in the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) as of January 1, 2007, is 9,397 beds. Of that number, there are 9,159 beds that are KDOC facility beds and 238 beds are other placements, or beds, available to KDOC. Ms. Pedigo noted that currently KDOC is at 8,933 beds which is below capacity at this point.

In reference to page 16 of her testimony that shows actual and projected in terms of total admissions, Ms. Pedigo noted that KDOC should be at capacity during Fiscal Year 2009. Page 17 of the testimony breaks this information down into Male Prison Beds where KDOC has an 8,649 bed capacity and Ms. Pedigo mentioned that in Fiscal Year 2009 these projections meet capacity. Page 18 breaks this information down into Female Prison Beds where KDOC has a 748 bed capacity and Ms. Pedigo mentioned that these projections should meet capacity during Fiscal Year 2010.

Chairman Umbarger asked that the following handouts be distributed regarding what would have happened if **SB 123** or **SB 323** had or had not been passed, which was a question he had asked in the Senate Judiciary Committee:

- Kansas Prison Population Trends, Actual and Projected Prison Population, With or Without **Senate Bill 123** (Attachment 2)
- Kansas Prison Population Trends, Actual and Projected Prison Population, With or Without **Senate Bill 323** (Attachment 3)

The Chairman noted that it will take commitment and study to provide bed space and there is no way of predicting the reality of the future predictions and emphasized the importance of making good public policy. Senator McGinn requested a definition sheet of the levels listed in Ms. Pedigo's testimony. Chairman Umbarger noted that a joint meeting of the Senate Ways and Means and Senate Judiciary Committees on February 5, 2007, for a presentation by the National Council of State Governments on Corrections, inmate populations, and other programs. The Chairman noted that both committees will meet at their regular times and the joint meeting will follow around 11:45 a.m. that day.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections, who also

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:30 A.M. on January 16, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

presented an update on Inmate Populations and Projections ([Attachment 4](#)) and ([Attachment 5](#)). Secretary Werholtz explained that the Kansas Department of Corrections is projected to run out of prison bed capacity before they can actually bring additional beds on-line. He noted that the discussion regarding KDOC bed capacity needs to be this legislative session.

Secretary Werholtz mentioned that what is seen in the Governor's budget is a proposal for bonding authority for the Department up to roughly \$39 million dollars. In reference to the sheet in his written testimony titled, "Housing Expansions Options" Secretary Werholtz explained that the information will correspond with the second proposed project on the chart under General Population - Maximum Security which will be four housing units at El Dorado Correctional Facility that would create 512 maximum security beds. KDOC is proposing to add approximately 500 beds at El Dorado Correctional Facility and move the bulk of the maximum security male inmates at Lansing Correctional Facility and Hutchinson Correctional Facility into those new cell houses. KDOC would not move all of the maximum security prisoners. He noted that plans are to double cell medium security inmates and single cell maximum security inmates. He noted that the old cell houses at Lansing Correctional Facility and Hutchinson Correctional Facility would be too small to double-cell individuals safely.

Secretary Werholtz suggested that some needs will need to be considered, such as expectations from the legislature and KDOC, providing adequate resources and bring in judiciary. Chairman Umbarger and Secretary Werholtz considered bringing together the community corrections directors, local courts, community mental health centers, drug treatment centers, and additional interested parties, come together to address needs such as the revocations, probation violations and other situations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2007.