

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
FY 2018 Local Jails and Detention Centers**

Implementing the Justice Reinvestment Act

Issue: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) should comment on the JRA implementation and how the provisions, once they take effect, could impact local jails and detention centers' budgets, populations, and facilities.

Response: It is too early to discern the impact Justice Reinvestment Act; however, there are a number of Commissions that will be closely monitoring its implementation and impact. As Judge Danny Long, Chair of the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board, stated on January 4, 2017, the State has been declared to be in Stage II of the Justice Reinvestment Act. This means that the State is eligible for federal funding and the next two years will be dedicated to developing policies and conducting training. So this will be a slow, deliberate roll out and the process will take years to fully implement and years to realize the impact on the population.

Progress and impact on the local detention centers will be closely monitored by the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board, which has two members from the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association, and by the Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission. The Local Government Justice Reinvestment Commission is tasked with creating performance measures under the bill and will make recommendations to the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board on the distribution of funds from the Performance Incentive Grant Fund.

Furthermore, based on the analysis conducted by the Department of Legislative Services, county grant revenues may increase significantly, beginning in fiscal 2019, as a result of the establishment of the Performance Incentive Grant Fund in GOCCP, as discussed above. Counties may receive significant additional funding for various specified programs, including to (1) ensure that the rights of crime victims are protected and enhanced; (2) provide for pretrial risk assessments; (3) provide for services to reduce pretrial detention; (4) provide for diversion programs; (5) provide for recidivism reduction programming; (6) provide for evidence-based practices and policies; (7) provide for specialty courts; (8) provide for reentry programs; (9) provide for substance use disorder and mental health service programs; and (10) provide for any other program or service that furthers the purposes of the fund.

Inmate Population Data

Issue: The department should comment on the excess capacity and lower populations at local jails and detention centers and how these changes may affect capital improvement projects going forward.

Response: Each county manages its own population and brings forward its own proposed projects. Populations and operating capacities are reviewed by the Department individually on a case-by-case basis as part of the capital budget request submission each year for each county that submits a request.

Anne Arundel County Central Holding and Processing Center

Issue: Given that initial planning, design, and the majority of construction funds will be paid for at the local level, DPSCS should brief the committees on their confidence that the project, which is heavily reliant on future State funds, can be completed as funded.

Response: County Executive Steve Schuh has made this project a top priority for Anne Arundel County and has allocated funding for completion of this project. This capital project request has also been approved by the Anne Arundel County Council.

Issue: Given that the Anne Arundel Central Holding and Processing Center will have numerous direct benefits to staff and workload levels and reduce inmate populations while increasing efficiency, the department is asked to comment on the feasibility of evaluating other jurisdictions' facilities to create capital improvements that could result in similar, positive outcomes.

Response: Requests and justifications for Capital improvement projects are generated by the counties and not by the Department. The counties collaborate as part of the Maryland Correctional Administrators Association. The Department may meet with county administrators for coordination purposes but ultimately the priorities are set by the county.

Recommended Actions

- 1. Adopt committee narrative requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to submit monthly reports that provide local jail and detention center population statistics.**

Response: The Justice Reinvestment Act requires the Department and the counties provide certain semiannual and annual population regarding pre-trial detainees. The Department also collects regular population statistics from the Counties. These annual and semiannual reports should provide the Legislature with all necessary information in a timely manner. Requiring an additional monthly report on top of the JRA requirements and the monthly general statistics would place undue hardship on the administration of the Counties. The Department respectfully disagrees with the recommended action.

- 2. Approve \$1.8 million in general obligation bonds for the Anne Arundel County Central Holding and Processing Center.**
- 3. Approve \$508,000 in general obligation bonds for the Calvert County Detention Center Site and Security Improvements.**
- 4. Approve \$1,204,000 in general obligation bonds for the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center Dietary Center Renovation.**
- 5. Approve \$1,000,000 in general obligation bonds for the Prince George's County Medical Unit Renovation and Expansion.**

Response: The Department concurs with recommendations 2-5.