

Corrections

Adult Corrections

Parole. House Bill 00-1150 allows the State Board of Parole to parole a special needs offender based on the offender's medical condition as long as the offender does not constitute a threat to public safety. A special needs offender is defined as someone who is in the custody of the Department of Corrections who is physically handicapped, mentally ill, terminally ill, or developmentally disabled, or is sixty-five years of age or older and incapable of taking care of himself or herself.

House Bill 00-1333 requires the parole board chair to adopt a policy for the expanded use of video teleconferencing for purposes of conducting parole hearings or meetings.

Probation. Prior to the passage of Senate Bill 00-092 probationers were required to pay an initial supervision fee of fifty dollars and a monthly supervision fee of five dollars. Under Senate Bill 00-092 the initial supervision fee is eliminated, and the per month fee is increased to thirty five dollars per month. Also, the portion of probation supervision fee revenue credited to the Offender Services Fund is increased from 20% to 100% for adult and juvenile offenders.

Community Corrections. Community corrections program agents will have level 1a peace officer status under House Bill 00-1421. Their powers will include the authority to investigate crimes, issue warrants, make arrests, process official documents, coordinate with community corrections boards, review offender supervision treatment, and authorize offender transfers.

Prisons. Senate Bill 00-104 (not adopted) proposed a moratorium on prison expansion and a task force on criminal drug sentencing policy and alternative sentencing options.

House Bill 00-1344 (not adopted) would have allowed the DOC to negotiate contracts with foreign entities to confine undocumented alien DOC inmates who would serve their prison sentences in their country of origin.

Department of Corrections (DOC). The DOC's omnibus bill (House Bill 00-1133) makes numerous changes regarding the department's operations including, but not limited to, allowing the executive

director to: create divisions and programs; to move any inmate between correctional facilities; to monitor the activities of private contract prisons; and to change the security level at correctional facilities. Further, the bill repeals archaic and obsolete provisions of current law.

Jails. Senate Bill 00-218 repeals archaic statutory laws regarding work requirements for offenders in county jail. House Bill 00-1099 authorizes the Department of Public Health and Environment to establish certain sanitary standards for penal institutions. These standards include space requirements, furnishings, special use areas, special management housing, and environmental conditions.

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