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10/3/03
Date

2003 HOUSE JUDICIARY

HB 1271

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1271

House Judiciary Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-29-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2		x	0-13

Committee Clerk Signature *A. Penrose*

Minutes: 12 members present, 1 member absent (Rep. Onstad)

Chairman DeKrey: We will open the hearing on HB 1271.

Rep. Grande: Introduced the bill. (see attached Women's Prison Alternative)

Chairman DeKrey: I have a question. When we were undertaking this, where were these people.

Rep. Grande: I know that Cass County has on more than one occasion has made these offers and they have been ignored.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Any testimony in favor of HB 1271.

Norbert Sickler, Administrator of SW Multi-County Corrections Center: (see attached testimony). There is an alternative.

Rep. Klein: Can you briefly tell me about this facility is at New England.

Mr. Sickler: It was to be used for federal prisoners from out of state and we invested approx. a half million dollars into the renovations to provide for security, dormitory area, kitchen, etc. and has been kept up all the way through. It is meant as a minimum security facility.

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House Judiciary Committee
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Hearing Date 1-29-03

Rep. Klemin: How many people could be housed there?

Mr. Sickler: Approx. 45, plus there are two other large buildings that could be utilized. We would be looking at a program that would be in conjunction with our facility in Dickinson, so we would have the inmates come to Dickinson, and then moved on to New England facility and could move them back and forth, depending on the type of security needed.

Rep. Klemin: So you have kept up the facility, is anyone using it at this time.

Mr. Sickler: The gym is used by the community as well as some of the other buildings.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Any further testimony.

D. Joyce Kittson: (see attached handout) Opposed. A lot of our Native Americans are in the prison and are dying. One of the prison cells is unlivable, but prisoners are still living there. We have 200 deaths per year in ND. They call the doctor out there, the death doctor. We would like a facility for Native Americans.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. Anyone else to testify on HB 1271.

Beverly (did not sign the registration or give her name clearly) - opposed, they prisoners are not given proper diet, medication, etc.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. We will now close the hearing.

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10/2/03
Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1271

House Judiciary Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-4-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2		x	38.4-45
Committee Clerk Signature <i>APennell</i>			

Minutes: 13 members present.

Chairman DeKrey: We will open the hearing on HB 1271.

Wade Williams, ND Association of Counties: Support. For the five or six counties that would have the possibility of providing correctional facilities for what the bill is trying to do. The legislative committee did have some stipulations, we would like to see the daily rate go from \$35-45/day, and out of state inmates are getting \$70/day. We would like to see that number go up to \$70. We would also need to know what type of educational and programs that are outlined in the bill, what those would have to be, so we can better assess what the cost to us will be. Also in this situation, we have a number of counties that have facilities, have contacted the federal prisons. If this could be a more stable market for us, then the federal prisoners wouldn't be taken. We generally have federal inmates for one year or 18 months. Generally they are transferred to the county jails for the end of their term of sentence and are waiting to go home so they are pretty docile. We would like to see contract be established which would give us a little

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Hearing Date 2-4-03

easier time in preparing budgets, if we know we are going to have 5 state prisoners over a year or two or three year period.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you. We will close the hearing temporarily for now.

(Reopened later on the same day in the same session)

Chairman DeKrey: We will reopen the hearing on HB 1271. Any testimony in support.

Glenn Glase: Support, feels the women's prison population would be a good fit with the New England facility. Southwest Multi-Correctional Center has done a good job with rehabilitating the facility.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you.

Dick Johnson, Lake Region Law Enforcement Center, Devils Lake: Support, we currently have a real good relationship with the state pen. We do house probably 5 or 6 males and have referrals for another 5 or 6 this past week. We have had female inmates. We do have programs and staff available because of our federal juvenile program.

Rep. Bernstein: You have room for how many inmates?

Mr. Johnson: We could take 15 on a continual basis. We are doing some remodeling in an addition and that could change to a higher number.

Chairman DeKrey: I hear from Morton County that they can't arrest anyone on weekends because they are full with people serving sentences and come in and serve them on the weekends. Their jails are full on the weekends. Is that an issue for Lake Region.

Mr. Johnson: No, they are really good about that. The people have to serve when it is convenient for us.

Rep. Onstad: How many facilities are interested in taking inmates.

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Mr. Johnson: I was told there was another facility, I know of 3.

Rep. Delmore: Do some prisoners present a problem for you.

Mr. Johnson: That is true. We have problem kids from time to time, we do sometimes exchange the juveniles with another facility to get them a different perspective.

Chairman DeKrey: Thank you.

Norbert Sickler, SW Multi-Correctional Facility: Support. We have a contract with the penitentiary. We work with both male and female prisoners, and this has worked out quite well. In regard to staffing the facility, we have a nucleus of workers, so I think workers wouldn't be a problem for us. The number we would be handle in Dickinson, a full security facility, is 10-12 female prisoners or male prisoners. In New England, a medium security area, all fenced in, and could take up to 38-40. We have a female dormitory that would handle a minimum of 35 with minimum staff security. In area of experience, we have had a contract with the penitentiary for several years, so we have experience working with them, and have handled some of the most aggressive federal juveniles from 14-21 years old. We do have trained counselors, etc. We could come up with a cost relatively close to \$55 on up depending on the programs offered, and the number of inmates being taken care of, if smaller number of inmates, the cost will be a higher. With more inmates, the cost will go down a little.

Rep. Delmore: Would these women be from your area.

Mr. Sickler: No, but if have children, it is good to be located close to their families.

Rep. Delmore: If \$55/day is the set amount, would there be other expenses that the state would need to pick up for you in order to make the program work for you.

