

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Summary of the FY 2018-19 General Appropriations Act (Senate Bill 1)

Statement from Executive Director Bryan Collier:

The conference committee report on Senate Bill 1, which appropriates funding to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and other state agencies for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 biennium, has been approved by the governor. Although funding reductions as high as 4 percent were contemplated early in the budget process, the Legislature maintained funding for core agency operations and programs at the FY 2016-17 levels with the exception of certain capital expenditures. A summary of how their decisions will impact TDCJ and the agency's employees follows.

TDCJ appreciates the hard work by policymakers during the 85th Legislative Session, their commitment to public safety, and their recognition of the vital public service performed by the employees of this agency. We share their dedication to public safety and fiscal responsibility.

PROBATION:

- Provides funding levels for felony and misdemeanor probation supervision based on the LBB January 2017 population projections.
- Maintains funding for the probation treatment/diversion programs, community corrections programs and the Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration Program at FY 2016-17 levels.
- Transfers funding for the CSCD health insurance to the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS).
- Provides additional funding for pretrial diversion programs.

TEXAS CORRECTIONAL OFFICE ON OFFENDERS WITH MEDICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS (TCOOMMI):

- Maintains current funding levels for mental health services and continuity of care for adult and juvenile offenders.

OFFENDER CAPACITY:

- Eliminates funding for the operations of the Ware Unit (state operated), Bartlett State Jail (privately operated), and the privately-owned, privately-operated West Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility and the Bridgeport Pre-Parole Transfer Facility. Based on the projected stability in the incarcerated population over the next five years, these closures will not cause TDCJ to exceed its system wide operational capacity.
- The remaining private prisons, privately operated state jails, as well as halfway houses and intermediate sanction facilities are funded at current operational levels.

CORRECTIONAL OPERATIONS, TREATMENT PROGRAMS & HEALTHCARE:

- Maintains staffing and funding for operational areas within the incarceration function (such as correctional officers, unit support staff, utilities, maintenance, and agriculture operations) at FY 2016-17 levels.
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CORRECTIONAL OPERATIONS, TREATMENT PROGRAMS & HEALTHCARE: (cont'd)

- Maintains funding for the rehabilitation and reentry programs such as chaplaincy, reentry transitional coordinators, substance abuse treatment programs, the sex offender treatment program, and academic and vocational training at FY 2016-17 levels.
- Funding for Correctional Managed Health Care totals \$1.1 billion, which represents a decrease from the 2016-17 biennial funding level, will transition Hospital Galveston to a Medicare standard dollar amount (SDA) payment methodology and cap indirect administrative costs at 2.75 percent. Additional funding has been provided for targeted salary adjustments to health care delivery staff, expansion of infirmary operations and hours of coverage, renovations at the Jester III and Telford units to increase medical beds, and extending prescriptions to 30 days for releasing offenders.

PAROLE:

- Provides staffing and funding for parole supervision based on the LBB January 2017 population projections.

FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITAL:

- Provides \$40.0 million for ongoing major facility repair and renovation efforts during FY 2018-19.
- Eliminates \$10.0 million for additional installations of comprehensive video surveillance systems.
- Maintains current funding levels for the replacement of agency vehicles.

OTHER AGENCY FUNCTIONS:

- Maintains staffing and funding levels for administrative and support functions (such as central administration, information technology, Office of Inspector General, State Counsel for Offenders, and Health Services).
- Provides funding for information resources data center services based on 2018-19 estimated usage.