

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSES \$69.2 BILLION SPENDING PLAN

Highlights include the elimination of 4,716 full-time state FTEs, (many vacant), the possibility of merit bonuses for state employees, the bonuses would have to be funded out of the agency's budgets and would not be funded separately. The House proposal includes \$277 million from trust funds, and shifts the funding of state courts to general revenue. House Cuts to Juvenile Justice: **\$22 million- 4.2%**

SENATE CHANGES COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

This week Senate President Haridopolis made changes to committees. Senator Fasano was removed as chair of the Criminal Justice Appropriations committee as well as the Senate Budget Committee, and was replaced by Senator Bogdanoff.

SENATE BUDGET CHAIRS RECEIVE ALLOCATIONS NEXT WEEK: CUTS IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET HINGE ON PRISON PRIVATIZATION

The House criminal justice budget that passed this week assumes implied savings from privatizing 29 correctional facilities. The Senate will build a budget that will also incorporate those savings. If not successful, \$16M will need to be found somewhere else within the public safety allocation.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING CUTS TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES NOT A TARGET OF SENATE

Senator Negrón, who chairs the Health and Human Services Appropriations committee announced that he does not plan to cut children's services, instead opting to focus on adult services, planning to make cuts based on DCF's ratings of provider performance.

BILLS TRACKING THIS WEEK

Conforming Bill PCB JUAS 12-01- passed adding "alternatives to detention" into detention cost share language including respite beds for domestic violence youth.

Amendments to Prison Privatization Bill - introduced by Senator Siplin directs 20% of savings required by prison privatization to go to DJJ and be used to fund CINS FINS.

SB 1886 (Zero Tolerance)- committee substitute passed - adds provisions for staff training on consequences of youth arrest record and in-school alternatives for minor disciplinary infractions; restores current law to clarify that petty acts of misconduct and misdemeanor offenses are not included as threats to school safety.

Next and final stop - Senate Criminal Justice committee

SB 504 (Juvenile Justice) passed out of the criminal justice appropriations and is now headed to its final stop, budget. This bill allows DJJ to pay up to \$5,000 toward the funeral expenses of children who die in custody of the department and also authorizes mother-infant programs. **Final committee stop- Senate Budget**

BILLS TRACKING NEXT WEEK

SB 834- (Juvenile Justice Education) is expected to be placed on the Criminal Justice Committee agenda sometime next week. The next meeting is February 9th.

FJJA Legislative Agenda

No funding cuts to juvenile justice.

Over the last 3 years, DJJ reductions have amounted to close to \$167 million dollars. Last year, the agency took a cut of more than \$70 million dollars. As DJJ works to improve the system of care, maintaining current levels of funding will ensure further success in the reduction of crime and other related costs, and second, prevent the flow of youth into adult corrections, reducing the need for future prison construction by taxpayer dollars.

FJJA recommends:

Taking into consideration the significant budget cut to DJJ last year, FJJA recommends that DJJ be spared further reductions in upcoming session.

Increase investment in community based services.

Investments should focus on the following program areas: 1) prevention, early intervention and diversion; 2) specialized residential; 3) transition, reentry and aftercare; and 4) education, career education and industry certification.

FJJA recommends:

If the revenue picture improves – investing additional dollars in community based services and contracted rates will further enhance youth success, lower recidivism rates, provide maximum return on taxpayer investment and sustain proven programs.