



Senate Fiscal Agency  
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## BILL ANALYSIS



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Senate Bill 50 (as reported without amendment)  
Sponsor: Senator Darwin L. Booher  
Committee: Michigan Competitiveness

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Corrections Code to do the following:

- Require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to implement a county jail bed savings program to house eligible prisoners sentenced to the custody of the DOC in county jails rather than in State correctional facilities.
- Allow counties to volunteer to participate in the program, and require the DOC to reimburse participating counties at a rate of \$35 per day per prisoner.
- Provide that, if a participating county had available bed space in its jail, and the DOC had in its custody prisoners meeting the bill's eligibility requirements, the Department would have to place the eligible prisoners in the county jail.
- Require eligible prisoners to be in a least-restrictive classification, serving a fixed sentence with a determined discharge date, and not serving a sentence for a criminal sexual conduct offense.

Proposed MCL 791.265j

Legislative Analyst: Suzanne Lowe

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on State and local government. It would cost the Department of Corrections \$12,775 per prisoner per year to house offenders in county jails under the program. In the short term, the marginal cost to house a prisoner in a State correctional facility is approximately \$3,764 per year. However, the long term marginal cost is \$34,550 per prisoner per year. The cost for counties varies by facility and other factors, so it is unknown whether the program would have a positive or negative fiscal impact on local government, but it is reasonable to assume that only counties that would see a positive fiscal impact would participate. The program could produce savings for the State if there were enough participation by the counties to allow the Department to close a housing unit or a facility. The average size of facilities that house large numbers of Level 1 security clearance inmates is approximately 1,770.

For a number of years, the Department has operated a leased beds program. A program similar to the one proposed by the bill, with offenders housed in jails in 14 counties at a cost of \$5,250,000 per year, was operated from January 2015 through September 2016. In the final year of the program, the participating counties' total capacity was 391 beds and counties were reimbursed \$35 per prisoner per day. The program was ended when fiscal year 2016-17 began, and the inmates were moved from county jails to State correctional facilities. The net saving to the State was \$3,209,000 per year.

Date Completed: 1-27-17

Fiscal Analyst: Ryan Bergan

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Bill Analysis @ [www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa)

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