



SPECIAL EDITION

On Sunday, September 27, 2009, House and Senate negotiators agreed on an additional \$38.2 million in spending reductions to the Michigan Department of Corrections Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-2010 budget. This spending reduction is in addition to \$120 million in savings that were agreed to in June of this year.

While the \$120 million savings has been accomplished as a result of a declining prison population and the closure of three prisons and five prison camps, the \$38.2 million spending reduction for FY 2009-2010 targets facility cost savings.

The savings, which amounts to about \$841 per prisoner, will likely come from prison operations, including the areas of food service, prisoner transportation, delivery and use of pharmaceuticals, and reduced health care costs resulting from preventive care programming. Other savings will be considered by each work site.

With adjustments, this proposed budget is \$88 million below current year levels and is based on a prisoner population of about 45,400. The all-time high for Michigan's prisoner population was about 51,300 in January 2007. It has been in decline since that time, mostly as a result of the successful introduction of programming like the Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative and the adoption of policy recommendations by the Council of State Governments.



The conference committee for the Corrections budget bill has moved the bill out of committee. It now must be passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to being signed into law by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. Both houses will be in session on Tuesday in hopes of completing the budget process and getting all the department budget bills on Governor Granholm's desk for her signature by midnight on September 30.

The new budget year begins on October 1, 2009, and without a FY 2009-2010 budget, the Legislature and Governor would have to pass a continuation budget bill into law or face the possibility of a government shutdown until the FY 2009-2010 budget bill becomes law. Both lawmakers and the Governor Granholm have repeatedly said a shutdown is not an option and the FY 2009-2010 budget will be enacted by October 1. **F.Y.I.** will continue to provide updates on the budget as they become available.