

Updated Testimony SB866.pdf

Uploaded by: Jones, Elizabeth

Position: FAV

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Washington County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Education, Business and Administration

Pensions



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March 4, 2021

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 866 Correctional Services – Payment by State – Inmate Housing Costs

Chairman Smith & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 866 to you this afternoon.

The current reimbursement per diem rate of \$45.00 given by the State Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to local county correctional facilities has not been updated since 2009. This bill changes the rate from \$45.00 to \$54.00. In conducting our own research, we reached out to all of the county correctional facilities in the State to determine the cost per day for housing an inmate at their facility. We heard back from ten jurisdictions and determined the average cost per day, which is approximately \$103.73.

With over a decade between 2009 when the rate was last updated and now, the cost of living has increased, as has the cost of housing an inmate. In speaking with multiple jurisdictions across the state, all of them reported that the cost per day to house an inmate is well above the current \$45.00 rate. In order to provide the proper care, medication, housing, and reentry services needed to successfully prepare inmates for their next steps, local county correctional facilities should be properly and reasonably funded at a rate that matches their expenses.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 866.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Corderman".

Senator Paul D. Corderman, District 2 – Washington County

MCAA Support SB0866.pdf

Uploaded by: Reece, Thomas

Position: FAV



SB0866

Correctional Services - Payment by State - Inmate Housing Costs

MCAA Position: **SUPPORT**

TO: Judicial Proceedings Committee

DATE: February 17, 2021

FROM: T.D. Reece, President

MCAA would like to offer its support for SB0866. Increasing the per-diem from \$45.00 a day to \$54.00 a day for holding a state sentenced inmate in a local detention center is a step in the right direction.

Local Jails over the past several decades has consistently had the length of time for holding a sentenced inmate extended to longer and longer sentences. Local Jails have taken it upon themselves to build programs and offer services to the inmates serving the longer local sentences. So much so that the local "Jail" is now referred to as a "Correctional Center" or "Rehabilitation Center".

Local correctional facilities have placed a great deal of effort in moving away from warehousing individuals placed in our custody, to facilities that now offer the opportunity for an education, job training, social, coping and parenting skills and many more programs. We have also created many alternatives to incarceration opportunities with home detention, work release, day reporting and pre-trial services programs.

The individuals sentenced to serve longer sentences in our local correctional centers should be offered the opportunities to seek change in their lives should that be their desire. The goal of every local facility should be to release all individuals back to our communities more confident and capable in their abilities than when they arrived.

State and local corrections are one of the most vital aspects to an orderly and safe community. However, corrections coupled with the new expanded services we provide, are very expensive to the jurisdiction and its taxpayers. Correctional Professionals across the state have worked relentlessly to develop creative solutions for funding these programs and services to avoid additional cost to the community. The use of grants, local resources, volunteers, and the assessment of fees to certain programs help offset the additional costs of providing the best rehabilitative care available.

The increase in the per-diem for holding inmates sentenced to the division of corrections prior to transfer and those returning prior to release for reentry services will assist local correctional facilities in maintaining and improving their programs and opportunities. The Maryland Correctional Administrators Association Support SB0866 and ask the committee to give it a favorable report.

SB0866-JPR_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Sanderson, Michael

Position: FWA



Senate Bill 866

Correctional Services – Payment by State – Inmate Housing Costs

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
with AMENDMENTS

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: March 4, 2021

From: Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 866 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill proposes a revised, and more realistic, framework for State reimbursement for inmates sentenced by State courts to serve sentences in local detention facilities. An amendment to set current funding levels as a statutory floor would remedy the potential backwards effect in some local facilities.

For many years, the state/county policy on sentenced inmates rested at a reasonable equilibrium. For relatively short-term sentences, offenders would be sentenced to local detention facilities, rather than state prisons. The State, in turn, paid a per diem reimbursement for the care associated with those inmates. This mechanism served all parties well, until the “great recession” forced budget cuts in 2009 to these reimbursements, which were then re-based and not restored. Now, local facilities receive a fixed-rate reimbursement for certain inmates, that by all accounts does not cover their actual costs.

SB 866 poses a two-part adjustment to this scheme, seeking to move this partnership in a productive direction. The bill seeks to set the State reimbursement at half the actual costs of inmate care, and also empowers the State and individual counties to reach a memorandum of understanding to establish an alternative to that default payment scheme. Overall, the notion of a framework that recognizes actual costs, and allows local flexibility, is a welcome advance to this stagnant structure.

Under the default calculations in SB 866, some facilities may see a decline in reimbursement from their current levels, contrary to the presumed intent of the bill. Such a funding reduction would even further strain local budgets, beyond the continuing effects of the 2009 cutbacks. **MACo urges an amendment to set a floor at the current \$45 reimbursement rate, to avoid this untoward local effect.**

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 866 a **FAVORABLE** report, with amendments to ensure that the revised reimbursement scheme does not reduce payment from the current modest level.