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State of Illinois
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT
FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY
703 Stratton Ofc. Bldg., Springfield, IL 62706
217/782-5320 Fax: 217/782-3513
<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/cgfa2006/home.aspx>

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November 11, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Patrick Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois
The Honorable John Cullerton, President of the Senate
The Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Minority Leader of the Senate
The Honorable Tom Cross, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State
S.A. Godinez, Director, Illinois Department of Corrections

RE: Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Regarding the Closure of the Logan Correctional Center

The Commission met on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 8:00 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Logan Correctional Center and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Corrections (DOC) for that facility. The Commission, on a vote of 9-2, rejected the recommendation by the Department of Corrections to close the Logan Correctional Center in Logan, Illinois. A copy of the motion to reject the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Department of Corrections officially notified the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the Commission) of the intent to close the Logan Correctional Center (LCC) on September 8, 2011. According to the State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608/5-10): "In the case of a proposed closure of: (i) a prison, youth center, work camp or work release center operated by the Department of Corrections; (ii) a school, mental health center, or center for the developmentally disabled operated by the Department of Human Services; or (iii) a residential facility operated by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Commission must require the executive branch officers to file a recommendation for closure. The recommendation must be filed within 30 days after the Commission delivers the request for recommendation to the State executive branch officer."

The Commission requested the required recommendation on September 14, 2011. The Department of Corrections submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on September 23, 2011. Following the State Facility Closure Act requirements for conducting a public hearing within 35 days after the filing of the recommendation and no more than 25 miles from the facility, the Commission conducted a public hearing regarding the closure of the Logan Correctional Center on October 26, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Chapel Auditorium at Lincoln Christian University in Lincoln, IL.

The Logan Correctional Center began operations in 1978 and is a medium-security institution housing male inmates. The facility is located on a 150 acre plot of land and houses inmates within 57 acres enclosed with fencing. It is rated at 2,033 inmates at capacity and had a population of 1,980 inmates as of the end of August 2011.

DOC has laid out a plan for transferring inmates from Logan to prisons throughout Illinois. Approximately 300 to 350 inmates would be transferred to Health Care Units and Segregation Units throughout the state. As a result of this action, 100% of all available beds, including medical and segregation beds, would be filled. In addition, 130 to 180 inmates would (because of a lack of space at other facilities) be required to be housed in beds at the Tamms maximum-security facility. However, during questioning at the facility closure hearing in Lincoln, S.A. Godinez, the Director of the Department of Corrections, indicated that the proposed moving of inmates to the Tamms facility was no longer part of the closure plan. The Department has stated that the remaining minimum security inmates (approximately 1500 or more individuals) would have to be housed in gymnasiums at the Hill, Lawrence, Pinckneyville, Western Illinois, Illinois River, Big Muddy, Shawnee, Danville, Jacksonville, Robinson, and Taylorville Correctional Centers. At the public hearing on the closure, the Director of the Department of Corrections indicated that a major dilemma with this plan was how to provide recreational activities to inmates in facilities that would be utilized for their gymnasiums in the event of the closure of the Logan Correctional Center.

The Logan Correctional Center has 14 buildings housing inmates. The Department has laid out certain capital needs for this facility that have not been addressed and would require significant outlays of money: Re-roofing additional housing units (\$1.2 million), Replacing windows (\$4 million), Replacing exterior doors (\$600,000), Rehabilitating a water storage tank (\$150,000), and replacing electrical loop and switch gear (\$2.4 million). These costs would not be incurred if the proposed closure was finalized.

As of the middle of August 2011, 356 employees were located at the Logan Correctional Center, according to the Department. DOC has suggested a plan of relocating all the employees to existing positions within the Department, including at existing facilities to assist in managing the additional workload from the proposed closure of the Logan Correctional Facility. The Department has estimated that 192 positions would be available by the end of 2011 at facilities within 90 minutes of driving time from Logan Correctional Center. The remaining 164 employees would need to relocate to stay with the Department.

The FY 2012 appropriation for Logan Correctional Center is approximately \$30.5 million, with an expected savings (if closed at the end of 2011) of approximately \$15.3 million. DOC estimates that the inmates at Logan would be moved to existing facilities at a one-time cost of approximately \$6 million. The Department has also estimated that given this additional cost,

the FY 2012 net savings from closing this facility would be approximately \$9 million. According to their estimates, the cost savings per year after 2012 would be \$18.4 million.

The Department has provided an economic analysis prepared by a team from the University of Illinois of the proposed closure of the Logan Correctional Center. According to the analysis, 356 employees working at Logan cause a total of 104 additional indirect and induced jobs within the surround community and area for a total of 460 jobs affected by the proposed closure. Many of the induced and indirect jobs are in a variety of support fields that employees of Logan and their families would utilize, including retail, food service, etc. In addition, the University estimates that the state sales tax revenue produced by the facility is approximately \$775,000. The estimated income tax produced by the facility is approximately \$391,000. The analysis notes that additional tax revenue through property taxes, licenses, etc. are not estimated, but would add to the total tax revenue for all units of government.

These facts have weighed heavily on Commission members' minds. After hearing testimony from the Department of Corrections and numerous other individuals and organizations, the Commission members present voted 9-2 to reject the Department of Corrections recommendation to close the Logan Correctional Center.



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

MOTION 3 VOTE

LOGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Meeting Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011 – 8:00 a.m.

Room 400, Capitol Building

<i>Commission Member</i>	YES	NO
Representative Patricia Bellock (R)		✓
Senator Michael Frerichs (D)		✓
Representative Kevin McCarthy (D)		✓
Senator Matt Murphy (R)		
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)	✓	
Representative Raymond Poe (R)		✓
Representative Al Riley (D)		✓
Senator Suzi Schmidt (R)		✓
Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D)		✓
Senator David Syverson (R)		✓
Senator Donne Trotter (D)	✓	
Representative Michael Tryon (R)		✓
VOTE: Motion 3	2	9

MOTION: NEKRITZ
MR. TROTTER

MOTION TO CLOSE LOGAN C.C.