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State of Illinois
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT
FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY
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May 2, 2012

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 Dwight Correctional Center

The Commission met on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 10:30 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Dwight 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 3-7, rejected the recommendation by the Department of Corrections to close the Dwight Correctional Center in Dwight, Illinois. A copy of the motion to accept 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 Dwight Correctional Center (LCC) on February 22, 2012. 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 March 1, 2012. The Department of Corrections submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on March 16, 2012. 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 Dwight Correctional Center on April 4, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at Dwight Township High School in Dwight, IL.

The Dwight Correctional Center began operations in 1930 with 7 cottages and 3 housing units. Four additional K-Houses were built between 1978 and 198 and an X-house was constructed and opened in 1997. This facility houses 961 female inmates and no male inmates. At this time, a number of capital needs are required for this facility to remain operational, according to DOC. Specifically, these capital needs are:

- Upgrade Wastewater Treatment Plan - \$4 million
- Roof Replacement - \$1 million
- Renovate C12 and C14 Housing Units - \$2 million
- Shower Repairs - \$150,000
- Upgrade Fire Alarms - \$850,000
- Renovate Old CDR Building - \$4 million
- New Well and Well House - \$1.35 million
- New High Mast Lighting - \$200,000
- Water Tower Maintenance - \$100,000
- Rehab Administration Building - \$3 million
- Renovate Housing Unit C8 - \$1.5 million
- Total = \$18.2 million (approximately)

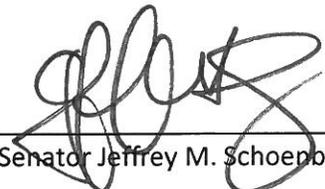
DOC has laid out a plan for transferring inmates from Dwight to existing prisons throughout Illinois. The Logan Correctional Center (currently an adult male facility) would be converted into a female facility. The 961 female inmates from Dwight would be moved to Logan. In addition, the 991 female inmates from Lincoln Correctional Center (a medium security female facility) would be moved to Logan. The Lincoln Correctional Center would be converted to a male facility to house some of the male inmates transferred from Logan. Of the 1,963 current male inmates in Logan, 1000 would be moved to the converted Lincoln facility and the remaining 963 would be spread among other DOC facilities. Approximately \$524,000 in capital projects would be needed at Logan Correctional Center to convert the facility to a female institution. DOC has not indicated to the Commission any costs to convert the female facility at Lincoln to a male facility.

As of March 2012, 355 employees were located at the Dwight Correctional Center, according to the Department. DOC has suggested a plan of relocating many of the employees to existing positions within the Department. The Department has estimated that 594 positions would be available by August 31, 2012 at facilities throughout the state, with 117 positions within a 45 minute radius of the Dwight Correctional Center and 161 positions within a 90 mile radius. Given the proposed closures of the Dwight Correctional Center and six Adult Transition Centers, this will result in 796 Department of Corrections staff impacted by layoff through the closing of the aforementioned centers.

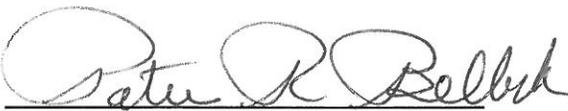
The FY 2012 appropriation for Dwight Correctional Center is approximately \$36.95 million, with an expected savings (if closed effective August 31, 2012) of approximately \$27.7 million for FY 2013. DOC has not provided estimates regarding the specific costs of transferring inmates from Dwight to Logan, under their plan. DOC does note that the estimated costs of moving the additional 963 male inmates from Logan to accommodate the female transfer is expected to total \$4.7 million. However, this does not take into account possible savings through electronic detention for low-level threat inmates, resulting in reduced populations throughout the system. Dwight facility annual maintenance costs after closure are estimated to be \$350,000.

The Department has provided an economic analysis prepared by a team from the Regional Economics Laboratory at the University of Illinois of the proposed closure of the Dwight Correctional Center. According to the analysis, 340 employees working at Dwight (according to the U of I analysis) cause a total of 128 additional indirect and induced jobs within the surrounding community and area for a total of 468 jobs affected by the proposed closure. Many of the induced and indirect jobs are in a variety of support fields that employees of Dwight 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 \$483,532. The estimated income tax produced by the facility is approximately \$326,146. 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. In particular, a point made by Commission members was the need for a comprehensive plan for closures before many members would be comfortable voting in favor of closure. After hearing testimony from the Department of Corrections and numerous other individuals and organizations, the Commission members present voted 3-7 to reject the Department of Corrections recommendation to close the Dwight Correctional Center.



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

**MOTION:
TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE OF
DWIGHT CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

Pursuant to the State Facility Closure Act (30 ILCS 608), after hearing testimony regarding the proposed closure of **Dwight Correctional Center in Dwight, Illinois**, I move that the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability accept the recommendation for closure submitted by the Illinois Department of Corrections regarding Dwight Correctional Center.

MOTION / VOTE

Dwight Correctional Center

Date: May 1, 2012 - 10:30 a.m. in Room 212, State House

| <i>Commission Member</i> | <i>YES</i> | <i>NO</i> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Representative Patricia Bellock (R) | | ✓ |
| Senator Michael Frerichs (D) | | ✓ |
| Representative Kevin McCarthy (D) | VACANT | |
| 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 to Motion | 3 | 7 |

MOTION: Trotter

2nd MOTION: Nekritz