

SENATE
Jeffrey M. Schoenberg
Co-Chair

Michael Frerichs
Matt Murphy
Suzi Schmidt
Dave Syverson
Donne Trotter

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dan R. Long



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>

HOUSE
Patricia R. Bellock
Co-Chair

Elaine Nekritz
Raymond Poe
Al Riley
Mike Tryon

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Trevor J. Clatfelter

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 Peoria Adult Transition Center

The Commission met on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 10:30 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Peoria Adult Transition 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 0-10, rejected the recommendation by the Department of Corrections to close the Peoria Adult Transition Center in Peoria, 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 Peoria Adult Transition Center (Peoria ATC) on February 22, 2012. The Commission requested a recommendation for closure from DOC on March 1, 2012. The Department of Corrections submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on March 30, 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 Peoria Adult Transition Center on April 23, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. at the Peoria Public Library in Peoria, IL.

The Peoria Adult Transition Center opened in 1972 and has an operational capacity of 248 adult males according to DOC as of 11/30/2011. The inmate population at Peoria ATC is currently 224 as of March 2012. In total, 1,241 inmates are located in seven DOC transition centers across the state. ATC inmates normally have jobs in their communities and attend school along with receiving counseling and rehab services.

DOC has laid out a plan for closing the Peoria ATC and five additional ATCs. The justification set forth by the Department in their recommendation to the Commission for this decision is that monthly lease costs and vendor fees can be cut without eliminating the opportunity for inmates to transition back into society. The Department intends to utilize an electronic home detention program to provide opportunities for reintegration into the community while costing DOC less than the costs of running the ATCs. According to DOC, electronic home detention averages \$5/day for an individual while ATC housing costs \$61.24/day.

As of February 2012, 30 employees were located at the Peoria Adult Transition Center, according to the Department. DOC has suggested a plan of relocating many of the employees to existing positions within the Department. There are six DOC facilities within a 90 mile radius of Peoria, and 135 positions available at these facilities by August 31, 2012, according to the Department. The Department has estimated that 594 positions in total would be available by August 31, 2012 at facilities throughout the state. Given the proposed closures of the Peoria Adult Transition Center, five additional Adult Transition Centers, and the Tamms and Dwight prisons, this will result in 796 Department of Corrections staff impacted by layoff through the closing of the aforementioned centers.

The annual operating cost for Peoria Adult Transition Center is approximately \$4.25 million, with an expected FY 2013 savings (if closed effective August 31, 2012) of approximately \$3.54 million. DOC has not provided estimates regarding the specific costs of transferring inmates from Peoria ATC to existing prisons under their plan, but believes this cost to be "nominal."

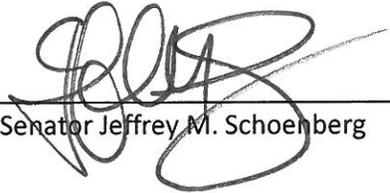
The Department has provided an economic analysis prepared by a team from the Regional Economics Laboratory at the University of Illinois of the proposed closure of the Peoria Adult Transition Center. According to the analysis, 30 employees working at Peoria ATC (according to the U of I analysis) cause a total of 18 additional indirect and induced jobs within the surrounding community and area for a total of 48 jobs affected by the proposed closure. Many of the induced and indirect jobs are in a variety of support fields that employees of Peoria ATC 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 \$62,843. The estimated income tax produced by the facility is approximately \$32,050. 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.

At the public hearing, Commission members took note of the large number of local employers who testified in support in the continued operation of the ATC and how vigorously they opposed the closure. The employers viewed the Peoria ATC as a "Win-Win" situation for the community as the residents were able to learn skills to ease their transition back into the community, while employers gained a valuable source of dependable labor.

The members also took a dim view on the number of current ATC residents who would not qualify for electric detention after the ATC closures. A Department of Corrections witness

estimated that over 50% of the current ATC residents would not be eligible for electronic detention. These residents would be sent back to prisons.

Commission members weighed all of these facts in coming to a decision. After hearing testimony from the Department of Corrections and numerous other individuals and organizations, the Commission members present voted 0-10 to reject the Department of Corrections recommendation to close the Peoria Adult Transition Center.



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

JMS/PRB
S332

**MOTION:
TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR CLOSURE OF
PEORIA ADULT TRANSITION CENTER**

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

MOTION / VOTE

Peoria Adult Transition 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	—	10

MOTION:

Trotter

2nd MOTION:

Schoenberg