

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

Kevin McCarthy
Elaine Nekritz
Raymond Poe
Al Riley
Mike Tryon

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Trevor J. Clatfelter

October 31, 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
Arthur Bishop, Director Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

RE: Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and
Accountability Regarding the Closure of the Illinois Youth Center –
Murphysboro

The Commission met on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 8:00 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Illinois Youth Center at Murphysboro and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for that facility. The Commission, on a vote of 7-4, rejected the recommendation by the Department of Juvenile Justice to close the Illinois Youth Center in Murphysboro, Illinois. A copy of the motion to reject the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Department of Juvenile Justice officially notified the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the Commission) of the intent to close the Illinois Youth Center at Murphysboro (IYC-Murphysboro) 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 Juvenile Justice submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on September 16, 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 IYC-Murphysboro on October 12, 2011 at 10:30 am at the Davis-McCann Civic Center in Murphysboro, Illinois.

IYC-Murphysboro was dedicated on February 11, 1997 on a 30 acre site to the northeast of Murphysboro. This specific facility was built using federal funds and specifically designed for working with a youth population. The youth population at this Level Three minimum male facility at the time of recommendation for closure by the Department of Juvenile Justice is 59, though it is officially rated to have a capacity of 156 youth. As of August 31, 2011, IYC-Murphysboro has 101 staff members who would be affected by the closure of the facility.

The FY 2012 appropriation for IYC-Murphysboro is \$8,640,900. The Department of Juvenile Justice estimates that the cost savings from closing the facility by December 31, 2011 would be \$4,320,450. However, this number is offset by the costs of housing the youths currently in Murphysboro at existing facilities (\$1,198,726 for the last six months of FY 2012), which brings the total cost savings for FY 2012 to be \$3,121,724. The Department predicts that the cost savings in following years would be \$6,243,448 from the closure of this facility and the housing of the youths at other existing facilities.

According to the Department, the youths moved from Murphysboro would be distributed among other DJJ facilities: Pere Marquette, Chicago and St. Charles. These facilities would be able to receive the youths and not be overcrowded. These facilities would have to obtain additional staffing to handle the new youths, which is estimated at: seven additional staff for the Pere Marquette facility, six staff members for the Chicago facility, and four staff members for the St. Charles facility. The increased staffing is folded into the total costs of the proposed closure (\$1,198,726).

The Department of Juvenile Justice provided a report courtesy of the University of Illinois, through their Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (part of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs). This report measures the impact from the proposed closure on the community of Murphysboro and the surrounding region. In the report, it is noted that for every facility job, approximately 0.5 additional jobs are created, for a total of 148.8 jobs (96 direct jobs plus 52.8 jobs). In addition, the impact of the facility on the economy in regards to sales and income taxes is significant. According to the report, sales taxes produced from the facility (and the individuals who are employed

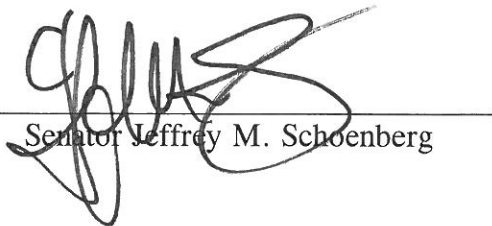
through it or as a result of it) in the local/regional economy equal approximately \$229,000. Income taxes produced in the same manner equal approximately \$99,000.

This facility closure request contained some different issues than in the case of other facilities recommended for closure in the opinion of some Commission members. The capacity exists in other Juvenile Justice facilities to absorb the youth residents of the Murphysboro facility. In addition, in the event of a facility closure, the Murphysboro facility may be able to be transferred to the Department of Corrections for use as an adult facility to help relieve overcrowding in existing facilities. The Commission members discussed the question of potentially closing the Murphysboro facility in favor of closing the Pere Marquette facility, given the differences in facility age and maintenance between the two locations. It is estimated that the Department of Juvenile Justice would need to spend approximately \$984,000 in capital projects at the Pere Marquette facility within the next five to ten years to ensure continued operations. These improvements fall under: Boiler replacement (\$118,000), Road resurfacing/parking/sidewalks (\$780,000), and Central Air in Dietary section (\$86,000). Along with these financial concerns, the Commission notes that the per youth cost at Pere Marquette and Murphysboro average \$250,873 and \$146,368 respectively compared to the State average of \$88,000.

Alongside these concerns, the Commission members noted the success of Department of Juvenile Justice programs in existing facilities and the requests for additional funding to continue and build upon these successes, including the successes at the Murphysboro facility. Given the limited timeframe for deciding on the Department's closure recommendation, the Commission members noted the difficulty in fully exploring all options and determining a best course of action.

After hearing testimony from the Department of Juvenile Justice and numerous other individuals and organizations, the majority of the Commission (on a 7-4 vote) voted to reject the Department of Juvenile Justice recommendation to close the IYC-Murphysboro.

Sincerely,



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

MOTION 2 VOTE

IL YOUTH CENTER AT MURPHYSBORO

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 27, 2011 – 8:00 a.m.

Room 400, Capitol Building

<i>Commission Member</i>	YES	NO
Representative Patricia Bellock (R)		7
Senator Michael Frerichs (D)		7
Representative Kevin McCarthy (D)		
Senator Matt Murphy (R)	7	*
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)	7	
Representative Raymond Poe (R)		7
Representative Al Riley (D)		7
Senator Suzi Schmidt (R)		7
Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D)	7	
Senator David Syverson (R)		7
Senator Donne Trotter (D)	7	
Representative Michael Tryon (R)		7
VOTE: MOTION 2	4	7

MOTION: NEKRITZ SECOND MOTION: TROTTER

→ MOTION TO CLOSE MURPHYSBORO YOUTH CENTER