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State of Maine  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHT LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The Honorable Paul R. LePage  
Governor of Maine  
1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

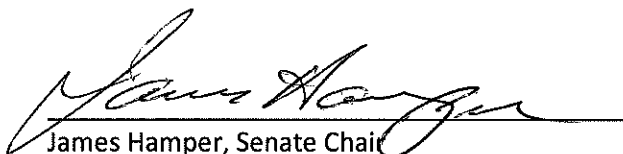
February 22, 2018


Dear Governor LePage:

We understand that a final decision regarding our invitation to participate in a joint meeting of the Joint Standing Committees on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and Appropriations and Financial Affairs on the Department of Corrections' "Proposal for the Restructuring of County Jails" was dependent upon prior receipt of the questions. Attached is the list of questions was generated by members of the two committees.

After consultation with Commission Fitzpatrick and members of your staff, we tentatively scheduled the briefing for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know by Friday afternoon if a representative from the department will be made available for that meeting. You may respond to either of us directly or through Maureen Dawson, our Committee Analyst ([maureen.dawson@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:maureen.dawson@legislature.maine.gov) 281-1635 or State House room 226)

Sincerely,

  
James Hamper, Senate Chair  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs

  
Drew Gattine, House Chair  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Attachment

cc: Dr. Joseph Fitzpatrick, Commissioner, Department Corrections  
Hon. Kimberly Rosen, Senate Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
Hon. Charlotte Warren, House Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety

## **Questions Regarding the Proposed Restructuring of Maine's County Jails**

### **The Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety The Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs For the Joint Briefing on February 27, 2017**

1. What is the timeline for:
  - a. the convening of the task force;
  - b. the implementation of the Maine Jail Commission legislation;
  - c. the creation of legislation pertaining to the Multi-County Regional Jail Authority; and
  - d. the rolling out of regionalization?
2. How will different county jail IT systems be integrated?
3. How are shared buildings to be handled, i.e. jail and sheriff in the same building?
4. What about contracts that have different expiration dates, such as telephone, food service, pretrial case management, medical, and mental health and substance abuse?
5. How will labor contracts be implemented?
6. How will debt service be resolved? (*Many counties are still working to pay off jail loans.*)
7. With some jails now being closed, is there a plan to address inmate transportation to court?
8. What do municipal police departments do in counties where the jail is closed? There is the likelihood that inmate intake could take much longer.
9. Figures in your analysis report are questioned by the York County Manager. Is this because they are "high level estimates?"
10. If your report is approved, who will pay for it? Will it need to be developed ahead of time to take over on day one, since administration, human resources, payroll, IT, finance, etc. should be taken into consideration. How does the funding work exactly?
11. Regarding the challenges of booking and bailing folks who are detained by local law enforcement (Oxford County, for example, has a multimillion dollar court house renovation about to be underway at the county complex in Oxford, but without the jail we have no secure holding facility to keep prisoners):
  - e. Is there a plan for addressing the challenges?
  - f. Will the county sheriffs continue to be responsible to transport folks held in custody from the holding facility to trial in the appropriate county courthouse?
  - g. Where prisoners be housed during multi day trials?
  - h. What laws would need to change to allow those held pending trial to go to trial near the jail where they are held instead of in the county where the crime was committed?