

Justice and Public Safety Committee

February 3, 2021 | 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | *Chair Len Humphries*

Johnson made a motion to approve September 2020 minutes. Goetz seconded. Motion carried.

Idaho Department of Correction | **Josh Tewalt, executive director**

IDOC housed 9,560 inmates last year. 650 were out of state. IDOC anticipates to be below 300 out of state inmates in March 2021. There is a need to address current and future capacity. IDOC expects law makers to weigh in on some proposals soon. More beds are coming onto the system soon. Multijurisdictional options are being explored. The legislature invested in connection centers, with four centers that opened in December.

Have areas been explored for the multijurisdictional center? The valley has been discussed first but IDOC is willing to look at the whole state.

Idaho Sheriff's Association | **Jeff Lavey, executive director**

Lavey has been in law enforcement for a long time. ISA is going to attempt to have a conference in May. The association has been busy following legislative proposals. The most important issue is the driver's license fees. Counties are paying over \$1M to cover the costs of running this program.

Legislative Update | *Seth Grigg, IAC; Kelli D Brassfield, IAC*

Post proposal - POST has been operating with less funding. The legislature appropriated from the liquor fund last year one time to cover the POST costs. They are looking to make this permanent. They are requesting \$800,000. \$400,000 would come from the general fund and \$400,000 will come from the liquor fund and it is a \$200,000 hit to counties. This is recognized as an issue and this will need a bigger discussion as counties being charged to attend POST. The sheriffs are requesting that there be a sunset on this proposal. Eventually, they would like to increase the number of academies they offer. There are other academies being offered across the state because POST doesn't have the capacity to take everyone.

When POST started, there were only two academies and it was fully funded from the liquor fund. That has changed a lot over the years. ISA would like to see the state find a dedicated funding source. This is a matter of public safety.

SB1037 – Increases the number of days a commitment hearing can be continued from five to seven days. This will increase the costs to counties by having to pay for an additional two days.

Goetz made a motion to oppose SB1037, Johnson second.

The counties need to make sure they keep in mind that this is a civil liberty right. These individuals haven't broken the law. The government should move quickly to move them to the necessary treatment. The five-day rule has become more irrelevant. Courts aren't following this and some are waiting for them to become competent. It isn't the duty of the county to provide this care. It is the duty of the IDHW and the process needs to move them quickly. This is the best interest of the county and the system.

Motion carried.

HB31 – This bill would allow for the state forensics lab at ISP to process more testing. The coroners oppose the bill.

Public Defense – The PDC is working through the rules process and presenting to the legislature. There are sections that counties oppose and are working to have rejected.

Taylor made a motion to adjourn. Johnson seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 am.

Justice and Public Safety Committee

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