

HB 1213

Chairman Longmuir, members of the Political Subdivisions Committee. Again, my name is Jason Pierce. I am a City Commissioner for the city of Devils Lake, and Vice Chairman of the Lake Region Law Enforcement Center Board of Directors. I am here this morning to testify in favor of HB 1213.

I will refer back to the PowerPoint I previously presented. I would like to highlight that this Bill would help to provide funds that are much needed in the procurement of a Regional Jail Facility in Devils Lake.

Seeing how much the Lake Region has been taxed recently for the expansions to our Devils Lake Schools, we would like to try to not impact our residents' pocketbooks as much as possible. This Bill would give us a great opportunity to

apply for state funds, hence lowering the costs that the City and County would have to accrue.

Our two main purposes for this new facility are first, safety for our staff and inmates. As well as moving the facility out of the town of Devils Lake providing safety for our community. Second, To provide an up-to-date facility for multiple counties in our region. We currently have 4 contracted counties (Ramsey, Benson, Eddy, and Nelson) as well as the city of Devils Lake at the Lake Region LEC. We also have contracts with The Federal Bureau of Prisons, ND Dept. of Corrections, and Federal Marshall Service. Both in our LEC and Residential Reentry Center.

This new facility would give us the ability to possibly obtain contracts with Cavalier, Trail, and Walsh County (if they don't build a new facility themselves.) Therefore, helping cut the costs of these counties having to transfer

inmates to Grand Forks, Jamestown, Fargo, and Bismarck.

As all of you may well know, As per ND Century Code 12-44.1-02 Establishing correctional facilities - Correctional facility contracts - Regional corrections centers.

1. For the confinement of lawfully committed persons, the governing body of a county or city shall:
 - a. Establish and maintain a correctional facility at county or city expense;
 - b. Contract for correctional facility services and use of correctional facilities with another county or city that maintains a correctional facility or with the state or federal government; or
 - c. Establish and maintain, pursuant to chapter 54-40 or 54-40.3 and this chapter, a correctional facility in conjunction with other counties and cities.
2. Subject to the requirements of section 12-44.1-31, the governing body of a correctional facility may contract with a state or a regional correctional center, county, or city of another state for the confinement of lawfully committed state, county, or city inmates from the other state. Page No. 1
3. The governing body of a correctional facility may contract with a state or a regional correctional center, county, or city of another state for the confinement of lawfully committed North Dakota inmates in a county, city, or regional correctional facility of another state.
4. The governing body of a correctional facility may contract with another correctional facility in this state for correctional services for purposes of safety, security, health and medical reasons, or for correctional facility administration.
5. The governing body of a correctional facility may contract for the confinement of inmates lawfully sentenced by a tribal court.
6. The governing body of a correctional facility may contract for correctional facility services with a privately operated correctional facility. Contracts with private agencies that provide correctional facility services may be entered into for up to seven years.

This facility will fall into what is outlined in the Century Code except for the expense. With the rising costs of everything this day and age, counties and cities are finding it harder to come up with funds needed to establish and maintain a correctional facility.

So, I am here to ask for you to vote a do pass recommendation on this HB 1213. As well asking you all to do all that is in your power, once it is brought to the House Floor, to get the HB 1213 passed and sent to the Senate for approval.

Thank you for your time, and I will stand for any questions.

PROJECTION OF ANNUAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS DUE TO JAIL CLOSURE

Based on an average fuel price of \$2.80/gal and an estimated fuel mileage of 18 mpg for a 2022-2024 Ford Police Interceptor SUV.

Distance (miles) from Devils Lake, ND to potential housing facilities:

Grand Forks County Correctional Facility (Grand Forks, ND) – 88.6 miles

Heart of America Correctional Center (Rugby, ND) – 57.7 miles

Stutsman County Correctional Center (Jamestown, ND) – 99.2 miles

Rollette County Correctional Facility (Rolla, ND) – 83 miles

Average distance (miles) of potential housing facilities: 82.12 miles (164.25 miles round trip)

Based on the previously mentioned 18 mpg and an average distance of 164.25 miles round trip, this is approximately 9.12 gal of fuel per round trip. At approximately \$2.80 per gallon of fuel, that cost is estimated to be \$25.50 per round trip in fuel.

In 2024 DLPD Officers arrested and placed in LEC Corrections approximately 346 individuals on varying charges. This averages to between 6 and 7 arrests per week (52 weeks). Using 6 arrests per week requiring transportation to another facility, **the average estimated cost per year in fuel would be \$7,956.00.**

Based on the average round trip distance of 164.25 miles at a 70 mph speed, the approximate time required to make these trips is 2.34 hours total. Based on an average overtime rate of \$50.75, assuming all transportation would require an extra Officer to maintain shift coverage, the total to pay an employee for these trips is approximately \$118.75 per trip. Again, using the average of 6 arrests per week, the total per week cost in employee pay for prisoner transports would be \$712.53. At 52 weeks per year, **the annual potential cost in employee pay for prisoner transport would be \$37,051.56.**

On average, vehicle depreciation is calculated at approximately \$0.08 per mile. At 164.25 miles round trip 6 times per week (985.5 miles) and 52 weeks per year, the total mileage on average per year put on vehicles to make these transports is 51,246 miles. **The calculated depreciation cost to the DLPD fleet for transports would be \$4,099.68.**

Total annual cost based on 6 transports per week and above calculations: \$49,107.24.

The calculations in this document are based on available data and estimations and would be subject to change based on number of arrests, fuel prices, wage of employee making the transport, etc...

Lake Region Correctional Facility Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services

Lake Region Correctional Facility (LRCF) has partnered with Evolution Counseling, who is licensed to provide Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services to eligible inmates while they are incarcerated. Inmates currently participating in the program will engage with Evolution Counseling for 2.1 level of care in a group setting, three days per week, for a minimum of nine hours per week.

Qualifying inmates being transferred into LRCF must have the following:

- A current alcohol and drug evaluation must be on file.
- Approval must be granted for the North Dakota Substance Abuse Voucher, with the designated provider listed as Evolution Counseling.
- A current release of information must be executed, authorizing Evolution Counseling to discuss treatment planning only in compliance with Federal Regulation 42 C.F.R.

The 2.1 level of care groups will be split into two groups, with a maximum total capacity of 20 inmates, divided between the two groups.

Inmates who are placed on the waitlist can access the following programs offered through the LRCF Behavioral Health Department. These programs are provided on a rotating schedule, based on the current inmate population needs and referral recommendations from the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (NDDOCR). The programs may be adjusted according to these needs.

Behavioral Health Programs Available at LRCF

1. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Groups

- **Purpose:** CBT focuses on changing negative thought patterns and behaviors, helping individuals recognize distorted thinking and develop healthier coping strategies.
- **Topics Covered:** Anger management, stress reduction, improving decision-making, addressing irrational beliefs.
- **Benefits:** Improved emotional regulation, reduced impulsivity, and a decreased likelihood of reoffending.

2. Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) Groups

- **Purpose:** DBT helps individuals regulate emotions, improve interpersonal effectiveness, and handle distressing situations.
- **Focus Areas:** Mindfulness, emotional regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness.
- **Benefits:** Increased emotional stability, better interpersonal skills, and reduced self-destructive behaviors.

3. Anger Management Groups

- **Purpose:** These groups teach inmates how to recognize and control anger, preventing violent behavior.
- **Topics Covered:** Identifying triggers, developing calming strategies, communication skills, emotional regulation.
- **Benefits:** Improved interpersonal relationships, reduced violent incidents, and better emotional control.

4. Mindfulness and Stress Reduction Programs

- **Purpose:** These groups introduce mindfulness and meditation techniques to manage stress, anxiety, and depression.
- **Techniques Taught:** Deep breathing, body scans, guided imagery, and mindfulness meditation.
- **Benefits:** Reduced anxiety, improved emotional regulation, and better coping with stressors in jail.

5. Life Skills Development Groups

- **Purpose:** These groups teach essential life skills to help individuals reintegrate successfully into society after release.
- **Topics Covered:** Communication, problem-solving, budgeting, time management, job readiness, and conflict resolution.
- **Benefits:** Improved social and practical skills, better preparation for life after incarceration.

Additional Educational Groups Led by the Nursing Department

The LRCF nursing department can also provide educational groups on a variety of health-related topics, depending on the needs of the inmate population and referral recommendations from NDDOCR.

1. General Health and Wellness Education

- **Basic Hygiene Practices:** Educating inmates on the importance of personal hygiene (handwashing, oral care, showering, etc.) to prevent infections and maintain good health.
- **Exercise and Physical Activity:** Educating on the benefits of physical activity, even in a confined setting, and providing exercises that can be done in a cell or common area.

2. Chronic Disease Management

- **Diabetes Education:** Teaching inmates how to manage diabetes, including blood sugar monitoring, medication management, and the importance of diet and exercise.
- **Hypertension (High Blood Pressure):** Providing information on how to manage and monitor high blood pressure, lifestyle changes, and medication adherence.
- **Asthma and Respiratory Health:** Educating on managing asthma and other respiratory conditions, using inhalers, recognizing symptoms, and avoiding triggers.

3. Sexual Health and Safety

- **Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV:** Educating inmates about the transmission, prevention, and treatment of STIs, including HIV, and promoting safe sex practices.

4. Infection Control and Disease Prevention

- **Tuberculosis (TB) Education:** Providing information on TB, how it spreads, and the importance of regular screenings, especially in a correctional setting.
- **Hepatitis C and Other Bloodborne Diseases:** Educating on the transmission and prevention of Hepatitis C, HIV, and other bloodborne infections, along with safe practices during medical treatments.

5. Medication Management and Adherence

- **Medication Education:** Educating inmates on the proper use of prescribed medications, understanding side effects, and the importance of following medical instructions.
- **Non-Prescription Medications and Self-Care:** Providing information on the safe use of over-the-counter medications for common ailments such as headaches, colds, or minor injuries.

6. Health Rights and Accessing Medical Care

- **Navigating Health Services in Jail:** Teaching inmates how to access medical care, request healthcare services, and understand their rights regarding medical treatment while incarcerated.