



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS
REP. BRADLEY SLAGH
CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 23, 2022 10:30 AM Room 308, House Office Building

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections was called to order by the Chair, Representative Slagh.

The Chair requested attendance be called:

Present: Reps. Slagh, Lightner, Brann, Borton, T. Carter, Sabo, and C.A. Johnson.

Absent: None.

Excused: None.

Representative Lightner moved to adopt the meeting minutes from February 16, 2022. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Ms. Bianca Tylek, Executive Director, Worth Rises, appeared before the subcommittee, via Zoom, to testify in support of providing free communication for people incarcerated in Michigan prisons and for their support networks. She provided members with written testimony, along with a letter from the Connecting Families Coalition, an issue fact sheet, and impact stories from citizens of Michigan. Based on prior work, Worth Rises estimates that it would cost the state less than \$4.3 million to provide 32,300 prisoners and their families with free prison communication. Worth Rises based their estimate on known rates around the country and the expected average daily telephone use per person, drawn from proprietary models. Discussion ensued. Questions and answers followed.

Kyle Kaminski, Offender Success Administrator and Legislative Liaison for the Department of Corrections, appeared before the subcommittee to give an overview of prisoner phone services and the Program and Special Equipment Fund. He discussed the importance of recognizing the specialized security and intelligence function needs of a prison phone system versus a phone system outside of prison walls. He briefly discussed current phone rates and minutes of prisoner phone time per month and per year. He talked about use of Program and Special Equipment Fund revenue to support prisoner education costs. Discussion ensued. Questions and answers followed.

Mr. Bruce Timmons, citizen of the state, appeared before the subcommittee to testify in support of the proposed FY 2022-23 executive budget recommendation to eliminate Program and

Special Equipment Fund revenue and replace it with state general fund to support costs of prisoner education. He provided members with background information on implementation of the fund and gave a history of legislation affecting the fund and the fees charged to prisoners for telephone services provided in prison. He also discussed his disagreement with the executive recommendation to eliminate boilerplate associated with the fund. He provided members with suggestions on how to revise the boilerplate instead of eliminating it altogether. Discussion ensued. Questions and answers followed.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, Representative Slagh adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.

Representative Bradley Slagh, Chair

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