

APPROPRIATIONS; DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

July 18, 2008

Today I have signed Enrolled Senate Bill 1095, the general appropriations bill for the Department of Corrections for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009. I have, however, disapproved one item pursuant to Section 19 of Article V of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. The specific item veto is contained in the attached copy of the bill, which has been filed with the Secretary of State.

I am pleased that this bill includes \$33.2 million for prisoner reintegration programs. The Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative (MPRI) reduces crime and the rate of offender return to prison by providing offenders the tools they need to be successful when returning to the community. I am also encouraged that discussions that have commenced with the Legislature, the Executive Branch, and stakeholders through the Council of State Governments' Justice Reinvestment Initiative will continue. This initiative is a sound strategy for reducing spending on corrections while keeping the public safe.

I have disapproved the proposed appropriation for an intensive probation pilot program and corresponding language included in Section 605. I cannot support the program as contemplated because it would give officials in the Judicial Branch supervisory authority over Executive Branch employees in contravention of the Separation of Powers Clause.

This bill supports the core operations of the Department of Corrections for fiscal year 2009. I commend the Legislature for its prompt action in finalizing this budget.

Respectfully,

Jennifer M. Granholm

Governor