

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

B 2018 001

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Concerning a Study of Prison Population Projections and Capacity Needs

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order directing the Department of Public Safety and Department of Corrections to convene a working group to undertake a study of prison population projections and capacity needs.

I. Background and Purpose

The State of Colorado has experienced reductions in its prison population since 2009. As a result, the state has reduced a total of 3,748 public and private prison beds since Fiscal Year 2009-10. Now, new population projections conducted by both the legislative and executive branches indicate that the state inmate population may rise significantly through 2020 and beyond.

At present, the Department of Corrections is nearing its capacity at both state and private facilities. If current projections are accurate, the state will need to open additional prison beds in June of 2018. The General Assembly has requested assistance in understanding the nature of our current prison capacity trends. It is critical that policy decisions affecting prison capacity are informed by accurate information; and that we avoid either systemic overcrowding, which inhibits efforts to rehabilitate offenders, or under-populated facilities, which have negative economic consequences for the state and local communities.

To that end, I am directing the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections to scrutinize the approach to forecasting the state's prison population. It is critical that the executive branch collaborate with members of the legislative branch in this effort as both future policy and funding issues must be considered.

II. Declarations and Directives

The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections shall convene a working group to conduct a study of prison population projections and capacity needs, with particular attention paid to Colorado's prison population forecasting models and the short and long-term capacity needs of the Department of Corrections, and taking into consideration the possible impacts of related criminal justice policy initiatives.

The working group shall review the historical accuracy of forecasting models of both legislative and executive branch prison population projections and, as feasible, make comparisons to the forecasting accuracy of other similar state models. Based on such reviews and other pertinent information, the working group shall make recommendations on additional steps that might a) improve the accuracy of the models, and b) mitigate the effects of variations between model forecasts and actual prison population numbers. Such recommendations shall be made with the intent of guiding more informed decision making for prison utilization in the short and long term. The working group's review shall be completed by April 1, 2018, and delivered with recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

The working group shall consist of the following eight members:

- A. Four individuals from the Department of Corrections, one of which shall be from Adult Parole, appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Corrections;
- B. One representative from the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting, appointed by the Director of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting;
- C. Two representatives from the Department of Public Safety's Division of Criminal Justice, one with expertise in prison population forecasting and one with expertise in Community Corrections, appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety; and
- D. One representative from the Parole Board, appointed by the Director of the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions.

The working group, to the greatest extent possible, may consult with outside experts, which may include the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, the Division of Criminal Justice within the Department of Public Safety, the National Governors' Association, the National Institute of Corrections, the National Council of State Governments, and others as appropriate.

The Department of Corrections, the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting, the Division of Criminal Justice within the Department of Public Safety, and the State Parole Board shall allow the working group access to data, research and all other source material, as appropriate and feasible, that will be of assistance to the working group.

Furthermore, the working group is directed to participate and collaborate with any members of the General Assembly appointed by leadership to conduct a review of prison population projections and capacity needs.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in place until April 1, 2018, or until such time that it is either terminated or extended beyond that date by further Executive Order of the Governor.



GIVEN under my hand and
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this sixteenth day
of February, 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor