



FY2008 RECOMMENDATION/FY08-L03 GOOD TIME CREDITS FOR JAIL INMATES

Status: Implementation Complete

Actions/Updates

2012 UPDATE

Arapahoe County report continued implementation of this recommendation. The Sheriff's Office reports that for Calendar Year 2011 a total of 8733 bed days were saved due to the change in good time days.

2011 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ACTION STEPS

Sheriff Grayson Robinson will request other Colorado Sheriffs to collect and report this information.

2010 UPDATE

Implementation complete. For the purposes of the Commission performance measures, Recommendations L-2, L-3, and L-4 have been combined because the impact overlaps. No centralized jail data system exists that would allow empirical assessments of the implementation impact. However, the impact in a single jail, Arapahoe County, is likely to be multiplied across the state's jails and must serve as the impact measure for the Commission.

Arapahoe County reports full implementation of this recommendation including modifications to policies and the completion of staff training. The Sheriff's Office reports that for the 12 month period from June 2009 to May 2010, 7,220 bed days were saved at an approximate cost of \$490,960 in Arapahoe County (assuming a daily cost of \$68/bed). This translates into millions of dollars in savings across county jails each year.

2009 IMPACT

This recommendation was successfully implemented with the passage of House Bill 09-1263. The impact of this reform for local jails is likely to be significant. In Denver County, using data from 2008, officials estimate that this good time provision will reduce the average daily population by 80 beds. At a daily bed cost of approximately \$55, this is a savings of \$4,400 per day. In Arapahoe county, officials calculated that the average daily population in June 2009 was reduced by 25 beds. At a daily bed cost of approximately \$68, this potentially reduces costs by \$1,700 per day.

Description

Clarify C.R.S. 17-26-109 to provide a standardized range of good time credits available to jail inmates.

Agencies Responsible

General Assembly, county jails to implement

Discussion

This recommendation was successfully implemented with the passage of House Bill 09-1263 which clarifies the use of jail time credits and allows jail inmates to be awarded earned time in addition to good time.

This important reform provides for the equitable application of time credits in county jails and moderately reduces the average length of stay. The passage of HB 09-1263 is consistent with the Commission's statutory mandates to "...ensure justice..." and enhance "the cost-effective use of public resources" [C.R.S. 16-11.3-103(1)].

Footnotes

Note: Elements from recommendations L-2, L-3, L-4 and CS-64 were combined into House Bill 09-1263.