

***Statement from Executive Director Brad Livingston***

*The conference committee's funding decisions for Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) were recently adopted for the FY 2016-17 biennium and will be submitted for full House and Senate consideration next week. A summary of how the conference committee decisions will impact TDCJ and the agency's employees follows.*

*During the last few months, we have worked closely with the conference committee members considering our requests for additional items of policy and operational significance. We are especially grateful for the committee's decisions regarding employee salaries and retirement funding. The committee approved an eight percent pay raise for correctional officers, correctional laundry and food service managers, ranking correctional officers, and parole officers, as well as the funding needed to ensure the employee pension program is actuarially sound over the long term.*

*Please note that the funding decisions below will not be finalized until the appropriations bill has been certified by the Comptroller and approved by the Governor.*

---

**PROBATION:**

- Provides funding levels for felony and misdemeanor probation supervision based on the LBB February 2015 population projections along with an additional \$12.0 million to expand the use of specialized caseloads.
- Fully funds CSCD Health Insurance at anticipated FY 2016-17 levels.
- Maintains funding for the probation treatment/diversion programs, community corrections programs and the Treatment Alternatives to Incarceration Program at the FY 2014-15 levels.
- Provides an additional \$1.0 million for the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program.

**REENTRY / TCOOMMI:**

- Maintains current funding levels for mental health services and continuity of care for offenders and provides \$6.0 million in additional funding for the expansion of mental health services.
- Provides funding for an additional 50 reentry transitional coordinators to enhance the agency's reentry initiatives.
- Provides an additional \$2.0 million for pilot reentry programs to assist reintegration of offenders in Dallas and Houston regions.

**INCARCERATION & TREATMENT:**

- Maintains staffing and funding for operational areas within the incarceration function (such as correctional officers, unit support staff, utilities, maintenance, agriculture, privately operated facilities, substance abuse treatment, academic/vocational training, and rehabilitation and reentry programs) at current funding levels.
- Provides funding [\$10.0 million] for the purchase of comprehensive video surveillance systems.
- Provides funding for an additional 500 DWI treatment slots.
- Provides funding for offender health care at the FY 2014-15 appropriated levels and provides \$84.9 million to bring the FY 2016-17 funding to the projected level of expense for services currently provided. Provides additional funding [\$59.4 million] for market level adjustments (5% in FY 2016 and an additional 5% in FY 2017) to salaries of direct offender health care delivery staff.

**PAROLE:**

- Provides staffing and funding for parole supervision based on the LBB February 2015 population projections and maintains current operational levels for intermediate sanction facility beds.
- Provides funding for an additional 125 halfway house beds and treatment on all intermediate sanction facilities beds.

**OTHER AGENCY FUNCTIONS:**

- Provides \$60.0 million for the agency's major repair and renovation efforts to maintain our existing physical plant totaling over 100 correctional facilities statewide.
- Maintains staffing and funding levels for all other administrative and support functions (such as Central Administration, Information Technology, and Health Services).
- Provides for an additional five investigators for the Office of Inspector General.
- Provides funding for Information Resources data center services based on the estimates provided by the Department of Information Resources (DIR).

**SALARY INCREASE AND RETIREMENT FUNDING:**

- Provides funding for an 8% salary increase for correctional officers, correctional laundry and food service managers, ranking correctional officers, and parole officers.
- Provides funding to make the state employee retirement fund actuarially sound (appropriation to Employee Retirement System).
- Additional statutory changes would increase the state's contribution to 9.5%, maintain state agencies' contribution at 0.5%, and increase the employees' contribution to 9.5% (LECOS positions to 10.0%). To offset this increase to employees' retirement contribution, the conference committee provides funding for a 2.5% across-the-board pay raise for state employees who contribute to Employees Retirement System.