WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 15A ARTICLE 3

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§15A-3-1. Purpose and legislative intent.

(a) The primary purpose of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation is to enhance public safety by providing for the detention of juvenile offenders, both pretrial and adjudicated, pretrial detention of adult persons facing criminal charges, and incarceration and care of adult convicted offenders who have been sentenced by courts of proper jurisdiction to serve terms of incarceration.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature:

(1) That juveniles and adult offenders be afforded appropriate education and treatment to reestablish their ability to live peaceably, consistent with the protection of the community;

(2) That persons held in pretrial detention, and committed to jails and correctional institutions of the state for whom release is available for crimes, be afforded appropriate treatment to reestablish their ability to live peaceably, consistent with the protection of the community;

(3) That persons committed to jails and correctional institutions of the state be released at the earliest possible date, consistent with public safety;

(4) To establish a just, humane, and efficient corrections program; and

(5) To avoid duplication and waste of effort and money on the part of public and private agencies.

(c) This chapter shall be construed in favor of public safety.

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§15A-3-2. Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation established.

(a) The Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation is hereby established within the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety. The executive and administrative head of the Division of Correction and Rehabilitation shall be the Commissioner appointed pursuant to §15A-3-3 of this code.

(b) Effective July 1, 2018, the Division of Corrections and the Division of Juvenile Services are hereby abolished. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the powers and authority of those divisions are hereby transferred to the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(c) Effective July 1, 2018, the powers and authority of the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority Board, in relation to all functions of correctional operations, are hereby transferred to the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority Board shall only retain the powers authorized in §15A-8-1 et seq. of this code.

(d) Whenever in this code a reference is made to the Division of Corrections, it shall be construed to mean the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Wherever in this code a reference is made to the Division of Juvenile Services, it shall be construed to mean the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Whenever in this code reference is made to the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority Board in relation to operations of any of the regional jails, it shall be construed to mean the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(e) Any person employed by the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation who on the effective date of this article is a classified service employee shall, within the limits contained in §29-6-1 et seq. of this code, remain in the classified service system as a covered employee.

(f) Where reference in this article is made to the “division”, it shall mean the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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§15A-3-3. Commissioner of division; qualifications, oath and bond.

(a) A commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as provided in §6-7-2a of this code.

(b) Effective July 1, 2018, the offices of Commissioner of Division of Corrections, the Director of Juvenile Services, and the Executive Director of the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority are hereby abolished. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the powers and authority of those officers are vested in the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(c) The commissioner shall take and subscribe to the oath prescribed by the Constitution for public officials and shall execute an official bond in a penalty of $15,000, conditioned as required by law. Premiums on the bond shall be paid from appropriations made for the commissioner's office. The bond shall be approved as to form by the Attorney General and as to sufficiency by the Governor and, when fully executed and approved, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

(d) Whenever in this code, reference is made to the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections or the Director of the Division of Juvenile Services, it shall be construed to mean the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Whenever in this code reference is made to the Executive Director of the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority, in relation to operations of any of the regional jails, it shall be construed to mean the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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§15A-3-4. Powers and duties of commissioner generally.

(a) The commissioner, in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter, shall:

(1) Exercise general supervision over the administration of the institutions under the jurisdiction of the division;

(2) Establish separate subdivisions, including a Bureau of Prisons and Jails, a Bureau of Juvenile Services, and a Bureau of Community Corrections, each to be headed by assistant commissioners, and other subdivisions as he or she deems advisable, which may be headed by one of the assistant commissioners, or by deputy directors. Nothing herein shall prohibit the commissioner from appointing the same person to head more than one subdivision;

(3) Establish rules, policies, and regulations in writing governing all subdivisions and institutions within the division;

(4) Establish an appropriate training program for personnel of the division;

(5) Classify the institutions of the division, varying according to the factors as security features, program, age, and sex of inmates, physical stature or size, character of inmates;

(6) Establish a system of classification of inmates and residents, through a reception and examination procedure;

(7) Cooperate with the Department of Education in providing for the education of inmates and residents in all institutions within the division, as provided in §18-2-13f of this code and any other provision of this code;

(8) Supervise the treatment, custody, and discipline of all inmates and residents and the maintenance of the institutions and their industries;

(9) Establish a system of compensation for inmates and residents of the institutions of the state who perform good and satisfactory work either within the industrial program or in the servicing and maintenance of the institutions or any other institutions or camps within the state. The commissioner, or his or her designee, may establish a graduated scale of compensation to be paid to inmates and residents in accordance with their skill in industry; and

(10) Subject to the provisions in §25-1A-5 of this code, provide for the transportation of inmates between the jails and local holding facilities for court appearances.

(b) The commissioner, in order to carry out the purposes and intent of this chapter, may:

(1) Appoint a deputy commissioner to assist in the day to day operations of the division;

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(2) Employ professional and support staff, including, but not limited to, certified public accountants, attorneys, assistants, and other employees as necessary for the efficient operation of the division;

(3) Acquire, own, hold, and dispose of property, real and personal, tangible and intangible;

(4) Lease property, whether as a lessee or lessor;

(5) Conduct examinations and investigations and hear testimony and take proof, under oath or affirmation;

(6) Issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers relevant to any hearing before the commissioner, or his or her designee, to conduct any hearing;

(7) Apply to the circuit court having venue of the offense to have punished for contempt any witness who refuses to obey a subpoena, refuses to be sworn or affirmed, or refuses to testify, or who commits any contempt after being summoned to appear;

(8) Sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and complain and defend in any court;

(9) Propose rules for legislative approval for the management and regulation of the affairs of the division pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code;

(10) Make policies for the management and regulation of the affairs of the divisions;

(11) Make contracts of every kind and nature and to execute all instruments necessary or convenient for carrying on its business, including contracts with any other governmental agency of this state or of the federal government or with any person, individual, partnership, or corporation to affect any or all of the purposes of this chapter;

(12) Accept gifts or grants of property, funds, security interests, money, materials, labor, supplies, or services from the United States of America or from any governmental unit or any person, firm, or corporation, acceptance or disposition of gifts or grants; and

(13) Designate a facility as a rehabilitation facility; a rehabilitation facility may utilize recommendations on programming from West Virginia higher education institutions and share statistical data with the same institutions for study on the effectiveness of services provided by the institution.

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§15A-3-4a. Powers and duties of commissioner generally regarding Stevens Correctional Center.

(a) In compliance with the powers and duties of the commissioner in §15A-3-4 of this code, the commissioner shall manage, direct, control, and govern Stevens Correctional Center in McDowell County consistent with any other juvenile or adult facility since Stevens Correctional Center in McDowell County has been transferred to the commissioner and is no longer contracted with the county commission of McDowell County to house and incarcerate inmates.

(1) Under prior actions, all of the facilities, equipment, and assets, associated with and on the property known as Stevens Correctional Center have been acquired and ownership assumed by the State of West Virginia through the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(2) All debt liability related to the operation of the Stevens Correctional Center in its capacity and previous agreements related to the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation currently owed by the County of McDowell have been paid and acquired by the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the State, or both.

(3) All county employees of the Stevens Correctional Center shall be transferred to the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation in the state classified service system, subject to a one year probationary period, and shall carry over all rank and accrued annual and sick leave balances.

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§15A-3-5. Officers and employees of corrections institutions.

(a) The commissioner, or his or her designee, has the authority to manage and administer the finances, business, operations, security, and personnel affairs of correctional units and juvenile facilities under the jurisdiction of the division.

(b) The superintendent of each institution or correctional unit has the power to hire all assistants and employees required for the management of the institution in his or her charge, but the number of the assistants and employees, and their compensation, shall first be approved by the commissioner.

(c) It is the duty of the commissioner to investigate any complaint made against the superintendent of any institution, and against any other officer or employee thereof, if the same has not been investigated.

(d) All prospective correctional employees shall pass a preemployment drug screening prior to being hired.

(e) All persons employed at a state-operated correctional institution or correctional unit are subject to the supervision and approval of the superintendent and the authority of the commissioner, or his or her designee, except those persons employed by the State Board of Education, pursuant to §18-2-13f of this code.

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§15A-3-6. Hiring of correctional officer without regard to position on the register.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary or any rule promulgated under the provisions of this code, the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation may hire any person listed on the Correctional Officer I Register for employment as a Correctional Officer I without regard to the person's position on the register: Provided, That no person on the Correctional Officer I Register may be offered employment or hired before an otherwise qualified person on a preference register who is willing to accept the position.

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§15A-3-7. Compensation of employees; traveling and other expenses.

The commissioner shall, in accordance with the provisions of §29-6-1 et seq. of this code, approve the salaries of all employees of the division. Salaries shall be commensurate with their duties and responsibilities, but no meals or other emoluments of any kind shall be furnished, given, or paid to the employee as all or part of their salary. The employees may be provided meals, household facilities, and supplies as may be necessary for them to perform their duties, if the employees agree to pay the reasonable cost as established by the commissioner. In the event of an emergency, such as a riot or other disturbance, the commissioner may authorize meals to be provided to employees at no cost. Additionally, the commissioner may establish a procedure to reimburse employees reasonable costs in the event the employee's personal property is stolen or damaged by an inmate or resident. All persons employed under this article are entitled to be reimbursed for necessary traveling and other expenses.

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§15A-3-8. Reports by commissioner and chief officers of institutions to Auditor.

The commissioner shall, from time to time, as may be necessary, make a report to the Auditor, which shall state the name of each person employed at any of the institutions named in §15A-3-12 of this code, his or her official designation and biweekly rate of compensation, and out of what funds or appropriation the same is payable. The superintendent of the institution, or other person who may have been appointed for the purpose by the commissioner, shall make and certify to the Auditor at the end of each month a list of persons to whom any payments may be due, stating for what purpose due, the amount due each person, and the fund or appropriation from which payable; one copy whereof shall be filed in the office of the institution where made, and one in the office of the commissioner. If the Auditor finds the list correct and in accordance with the reports made to him or her by the commissioner, he or she may pay to the persons entitled thereto the amounts so certified as due each.

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§15A-3-9. Special compensation of officers and employees prohibited; penalty.

No officer or employee shall receive, directly or indirectly, any other compensation for his or her services than that provided by law, or by the commissioner before his or her appointment, nor shall he or she receive any compensation whatever, directly or indirectly, for any act or service which he or she may do or perform for or on behalf of any contractor, or agent, or employee of a contractor. For any violation of this section the officer, agent, or employee of the state engaged therein shall be dismissed from his or her office or service, and every contractor, or employee, or agent of a contractor, engaged therein shall be expelled from the grounds of an institution, and not again employed in any institution as a contractor, agent, or employee.

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§15A-3-10. Law-enforcement powers of employees; authority to carry firearms.

(a) As outlined in this section, a correctional officer employed by the division is a law-enforcement officer: *Provided*, That such law-enforcement officers who have successfully completed the appropriate training program for correctional officers established by the commissioner pursuant to §15A-3-4 are not subject to the certification requirements set forth in §30-29-1 *et seq*.: *Provided, however*, That the commissioner may consult with the Law Enforcement Professional Standards Subcommittee of the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction when designing his or her law-enforcement officer training course specifically for correctional officers: *Provided further*, That nothing in this section shall be construed as superseding the requirements set forth in §30-29-5 of this code for a person to be employed as a law-enforcement officer by any West Virginia law-enforcement agency or by any state institution of higher education or by a hospital or by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

(b) The commissioner is a law-enforcement official and may use, and allow or disallow his or her designated employees to use, publicly provided vehicle to travel to and from their workplace: *Provided*, That the usage is subject to the supervision of the commissioner and is directly connected with and required by the nature and in the performance of the official's or designated employee's duties and responsibilities.

(c) All employees of the division are responsible for enforcing rules and laws necessary for the control and management of correctional units and the maintenance of public safety that is within the scope of responsibilities of the division.

(d) Persons employed by the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation as correctional officers may make arrests of persons already charged with a violation of law who surrender themselves to the correctional officer, to arrest persons already in the custody of the division for violations of law occurring in the officer's presence, to detain or arrest persons for violations of state law committed on the property of any facility under the jurisdiction of the commissioner, and to conduct investigations, pursue, and apprehend escapees from the custody of a facility of the division.

(e) The commissioner may designate correctional employees as correctional peace officers who may:

(1) Detain persons for violations of state law committed on the property of any state correctional institution;

(2) Conduct investigations regarding criminal activity occurring within a correctional facility;

(3) Execute criminal process or other process in furtherance of these duties; and

(4) Apply for, obtain, and execute search warrants necessary for the completion of his or her

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duties and responsibilities.

(f) The Corrections Special Operations Team is continued and consists of the Corrections Emergency Response Team, the K9 unit, and the Crisis Negotiations Team created under the former Division of Corrections. The Corrections Special Operations Team serves as the first responder necessary for the protection of life, liberty, and property. It has limited law-enforcement authority regarding matters occurring at jails, correctional centers, and juvenile centers, and arrest powers to apprehend escapees, absconders, and in all matters arising on the grounds of a facility under the care and control of the commissioner: *Provided*, That at any time the Corrections Special Operations Team is apprehending an escapee or an absconder outside the confinement of the facility grounds, it does so with the assistance and cooperation of local law enforcement or the West Virginia State Police.

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the commissioner may issue a certificate authorizing any correctional employee who has successfully completed the division's training program for firearms certification to carry a firearm in the performance of his or her official duties. The training program shall be approved by the commissioner and be equivalent to the training requirements applicable to deputy sheriffs for the use and handling of firearms. Any correctional employee authorized to do so by the commissioner may carry division-issued firearms while in the performance of his or her official duties, which shall include travel to and from work sites. To maintain certification, a correctional employee must successfully complete an annual firearms qualification course equivalent to that required of certified law-enforcement officers as established by the law enforcement professional standards program. The certificate shall be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and shall bear his or her official signature.

(h) In recognition of the duties of their employment supervising the confinement and transportation of inmates, and their arrest powers referenced in this section which constitute law enforcement, correctional officers with the power to arrest and who have been authorized to carry firearms by the Commissioner are determined to be qualified law-enforcement officers as that term is used in 18 U.S.C. § 926B. When a qualified law-enforcement officer within the meaning of this subsection retires from, or otherwise honorably ceases employment with the division, such correctional officer is determined to be a qualified retired law-enforcement officer within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 926C: *Provided*, That such officer maintains the requirements of and status as an honorably separated or qualified retired law-enforcement officer within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 926C.

(i) Any state designated correctional officer may carry a concealed firearm for self-defense purposes pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 926B, if the following criteria are met:

(1) The Commissioner of Corrections has a written policy authorizing correctional officers to carry a concealed firearm for self-defense purposes;

(2) There is in place a requirement that the designated correctional officers annually qualify

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in the use of a firearm with standards for qualification which are equal to, or exceed, those required of sheriff's deputies by the Law-Enforcement Professional Standards Program;

(3) The Commissioner issues a photographic identification and certification card which identify the designated correctional officers as qualified law-enforcement employees pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

(j) Any policy instituted pursuant to this section shall include provisions which:

(1) Preclude or remove a person from participation in the concealed firearm program;

(2) Preclude from participation persons prohibited by federal or state law from possessing or receiving a firearm and;

(3) Prohibit persons from carrying a firearm pursuant to the provisions of this subsection while in an impaired state as defined in §17C-5-2 of this code.

(k) Any designated correctional officer who participates in a program authorized by the provisions of this subsection is responsible, at his or her expense, for obtaining and maintaining a suitable firearm and ammunition.

(l) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting the amendments to this section during the 2024 regular session of the Legislature to authorize designated correctional officers wishing to do so to meet the requirements of the federal Law-Enforcement Officer's Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. § 926B.

(m) The privileges authorized by the amendments to this section enacted during the 2024 regular session of the Legislature are wholly within the discretion of the Commissioner.

(n) The provisions of §30-29-12 of this code shall apply to all correctional officers recognized in subsection (h) of this section.

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§15A-3-11. Unauthorized use of uniform, badge, identification card, or other insignia; impersonation of member; and penalty.

(a) The commissioner shall prescribe the design, or designs, of uniforms used by employees of the division, which shall be dissimilar to the design of the uniform worn by the members of the State Police or the established statewide uniform of a sheriff or deputy sheriffs. A municipality shall not adopt for its police officers or other employees a uniform which is similar in design to the uniform adopted by the commissioner.

(b) No person who is not an officer or employee of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and no officer or employee of the division who is not authorized to do so, may, with intent to deceive, wear, use, order to be used or worn, copy, or imitate in any respect or manner the uniform, badge, identification card, or other insignia prescribed for employees of the division.

(c) No person who is not an officer or employee of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation may falsely represent himself or herself to be an officer or employee of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation or to be under the order or direction of any officer or employee of the division.

(d) No person employed as an officer or employee of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation may use his or her position as such to threaten or coerce any other person in order to receive any favoritism, employment, or thing of favor by virtue of his or her employment with the division: Provided, That this subsection does not apply to violations of the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

(e) Any person who violates the provisions of §15A-3-11(b), §15A-3-11(c), or §15A-3-11(d) of this code is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $200, or confined in the county or regional jail for not more than six months, or both fined and confined.

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§15A-3-12. Institutions managed by commissioner.

(a) The commissioner shall manage, direct, control, and govern the prisons, jails, or correctional institutions of this state, and the juvenile facilities of this state, including, but not limited to:

Mount Olive Correctional Complex and Jail;

Huttonsville Correctional Center and Jail;

Anthony Correctional Center and Jail;

Denmar Correctional Center and Jail;

Pruntytown Correctional Center and Jail;

Northern Regional Jail and Correctional Center;

Saint Marys Correctional Center and Jail;

Lakin Correctional Center and Jail;

Ohio County Correctional Center and Jail;

Beckley Correctional Center and Jail;

Martinsburg Correctional Center and Jail;

Salem Correctional Center and Jail;

Stevens Correctional Center;

Parkersburg Correctional Center and Jail;

Charleston Correctional Center and Jail;

Central Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

Eastern Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

North Central Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

Potomac Highlands Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

South Central Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

Southern Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

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Southwestern Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

Tygart Valley Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

Western Regional Jail and Corrections Facility;

Donald R. Kuhn Juvenile Center;

Gene Spadaro Juvenile Center;

J.M. Chick Buckbee Juvenile Center;

Kenneth "Honey" Rubenstein Juvenile Center;

Lorrie Yeager Juvenile Center;

Robert L. Shell Juvenile Center;

Sam Perdue Juvenile Center;

Tiger Morton Juvenile Center;

Vicki Douglas Juvenile Center; and

Any other juvenile or adult facility later transferred to the commissioner.

(b) The commissioner may contract with Youth Services System to house and detain juveniles at the Ronald Mulholland Juvenile Center consistent with all the requirements and standards governing the division.

(c) The commissioner may establish work and study release units as extensions and subsidiaries of those state institutions under his or her control and authority. The work and study release units may be coeducational and shall be managed, directed, and controlled as provided in this article.

(d) The commissioner may contract with nonprofit or charitable entities including, but not limited to, nonprofit community mental health clinics, operating half-way houses, or transitional housing facilities for the placement of persons in the commissioner's custody, whether confined or under parole supervision, as long as the facilities meet standards and criteria established by the commissioner.

(1) The commissioner may direct that a person who is placed in a half-way house or transitional housing facility under this section make reimbursement to the state in the amount of a reasonable sum calculated to offset all or part of the costs of the placement. Prior to ordering the person to make the reimbursement, the commissioner, or his or her designee, shall consider the following:

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(A) The person's ability to pay;

(B) The nature and extent of the person's responsibilities to his or her dependents, if any;

(C) The length of probable incarceration under the court's sentence; and

(D) The effect, if any, that reimbursement might have on the person's rehabilitation.

(2) The division shall provide the number of persons placed in a half-way house or a transitional housing facility as authorized in this section in its report made pursuant to §5-1-20 of this code, and shall describe its plans to use the authority provided under the provisions of §15A-3-12 (f) of this code in furtherance of the duties and responsibilities imposed by this article.

(e) All adult persons sentenced by a court to serve a sentence of incarceration in a prison, jail, or correctional institution under the jurisdiction of the commissioner shall be deemed to be sentenced to the custody of the commissioner. The commissioner, or his or her designee, may order the transfer of any adult to any appropriate institution within the division.

(f) The commissioner may contract with any county jail, or other appropriate facility or institution for the incarceration and care of adult inmates. If a felony sentenced inmate is held in a jail facility or unit, under the jurisdiction of the commissioner, the commissioner shall pay a per diem rate, not subject to the limitations set forth in §15A-3-16(g) of this code.

(g) The commissioner, or his or her designee, may transfer any adult prisoner or inmate who is mentally disturbed and who would more appropriately be treated in an institution under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Health, to the Bureau, subject to the approval of the Director of Health, and may transfer any adult prisoner or inmate to an appropriate mental facility for specialized medical treatment.

(h) The commissioner shall, no later than July 1, 2019, complete an evaluation of all facilities within his or her control for the most appropriate space to house each type of inmate, and shall consult with the Juvenile Justice Commission on any and all intended uses of current or prospective juvenile facilities. This evaluation shall include an assessment of the physical plant of each institution, the inmate population size and type, and classification of inmates. Following completion of the evaluation, the commissioner shall develop a plan on how to best utilize the institutional space, and shall report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance with recommendations regarding implementation of that plan. The commissioner may, from time to time, and as circumstances dictate, reorganize the facilities, and units within the facilities, to house pretrial inmates, convicted misdemeanants, and convicted felons in the most appropriate manner. No facility shall be converted from a juvenile to an adult facility, or from an adult to a juvenile facility, without legislative authorization.

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§15A-3-13. Title to property of state institutions; custody of deeds and other muniments of title; authority of Commissioner.

The title to all property constituting or belonging to the several institutions named in §15A-3-12 of this code is vested in the state. The commissioner is custodian of all deeds and other muniments of title and shall cause such as are susceptible of recordation to be recorded in the proper offices. The commissioner is authorized, as lessor, to lease the West Virginia penitentiary in Moundsville, title to which is vested in the state by prior act of the Legislature, for a term of not more than five years: Provided, That this section does not affect any lease in effect as of the effective date of this section. Any agreement entered into under this section shall be with the consent and approval of the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, and shall include a provision within each agreement allowing for the immediate termination by the secretary or commissioner at any time.

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§15A-3-14. Exempt from Purchasing Division; purchasing procedures.

(a) The provisions established in §5A-3-1 *et seq*. of this code do not apply to the division or any institution under the control of the division.

(b) When the cost under any contract or agreement entered into by the division, other than compensation for personal services, involves an expenditure of more than $10,000 and less than $25,000, the division shall solicit at least three bids, if possible, from vendors and make a written contract, or agreement, with the lowest responsible bidder. When the cost under any contract or agreement entered into by the division, other than compensation for personal services, involves an expenditure of $25,000 or more, the division shall make a written contract with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder after public notice is published, which notice shall state the general character of the work and general character of the materials to be furnished, the place where plans and specifications therefor may be examined, and the time and place of receiving bids. The notice may be published by an advertising medium the division deems advisable. The division may also solicit sealed bids by sending requests by mail or electronic transmission to prospective vendors. But a contract for lease of a correctional facility is not subject to the foregoing requirements and the division may enter into the contract for lease pursuant to negotiation upon the terms and conditions and for the period as it finds to be reasonable and proper under the circumstances and in the best interests of proper operation or efficient acquisition or construction of the projects. The division may reject any and all bids. A bond with good and sufficient surety, approved by the division, may be required by the division. The good and sufficient surety may be in the form of a bid bond, performance bond, payment bond, maintenance bond, labor and materials bond, or any other type of surety deemed necessary by the division.

(c) The division may use best value procurement to enter into a contract when the commissioner determines in writing that it is advantageous to the state.

(1) A solicitation for bids under best value procurement shall be made in the same manner as provided in this section.

(2) Best value procurement awards shall be based on criteria set forth in the solicitation and information contained in the proposals submitted in response to the solicitation. Those criteria include, but are not limited to, price and the total cost of acquiring, operating, maintaining, and supporting a commodity or service over its projected lifetime, as well as technical criteria. The technical criteria may include, but are not limited to, the evaluated technical merit of the bidder’s bid or proposal, the bidder’s past performance, the degree to which a proposal exceeds other proposals in technical merit, the utility of any novel or unrequested items in the proposal, and the evaluated probability of performing the requirements stated in the solicitation on time, with high quality, and in a manner that accomplishes the business objectives set forth in the solicitation.

(3) The award must be made to the highest scoring responsive and responsible bidder whose

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bid is determined, in writing, to be most advantageous to the state, taking into consideration all evaluation factors set forth in the best value solicitation.

(4) The division may not use best value procurement to enter into government construction contracts, including, but not limited to, those set forth in §5-22-1 *et seq*. of this code.

(d)(1) The division may make a direct award of a contract without competitive bidding if:

(A) The commissioner shall make a written determination that the direct award is in the best interest of the state;

(B) The division documents in writing that competition is not available because there is no other source for the commodity or service, or that no other source would be willing or able to replace the existing source without a detrimental effect on the division, the existence of a detrimental effect being determined by the commissioner in his or her sole discretion;

(C) The division publicly advertises a notice of intent to make a direct award without competition in the state's official bid notification system, as well as any other public advertisement that the division deems appropriate, for no less than 10 business days; and

(D) No other vendor expresses an interest in providing the commodity or service in question.

(2) If a vendor expresses an interest in providing the commodity or service described in the notice of intent to make a direct award, then the division must convert the direct award to a competitive bid, unless the commissioner determines that the interest expressed by a vendor is unreasonable. The competitive bid may, at the discretion of the commissioner, be either a request for quotation or request for proposal.

(3) The notice of intent to make a direct award shall contain the following information:

(A) A description of the commodity or service for which a direct award will be made;

(B) A time period by which delivery must be made or performance must occur;

(C) The price that will be paid for the commodity or service;

(D) Any limitations that a competing vendor would need to satisfy;

(E) An invitation to all vendors interested in providing the commodity or service to make that interest known; and

(F) Contact information for the commissioner or his or her designee, and instructions to submit a statement of interest to the commissioner or his or her designee.

(e) The commissioner, or division, shall not award a contract or renew a contract to any vendor or prospective vendor when the vendor or prospective vendor, or a related party to

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the vendor or prospective vendor, is a debtor and:

(1) The debt owed is an amount greater than $1,000 in the aggregate; or

(2) The debtor is in employer default.

(f) The division has the authority to run criminal background checks, financial background checks, a licensing check, and a credit check, and any vendor, or any and all principals in a company or corporation, must submit to said checks to be eligible to be awarded a contract for the division. The commissioner, or division, shall not award a contract to a vendor if any of the following are present:

(1) Conviction of an offense involving fraud or a felony offense in connection with obtaining or attempting to obtain a public contract or subcontract;

(2) Conviction of any federal or state antitrust statute relating to the submission of offers;

(3) Conviction of an offense involving embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property in connection with the performance of a contract;

(4) Conviction of a felony offense demonstrating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that affects the present responsibility of the vendor or subcontractor;

(5) Default on obligations owed to the state, including, but not limited to, obligations owed to the Workers' Compensation Fund, as defined in §23-2C-1 *et seq*. of this code, and obligations under the West Virginia Unemployment Compensation Act and West Virginia state tax and revenue laws. For purposes of this subsection, a vendor is in default when, after due notice, the vendor fails to submit a required payment, interest thereon, or penalty, and has not entered into a repayment agreement with the appropriate agency of the state or has entered into a repayment agreement but does not remain in compliance with its obligations under the repayment agreement. In the case of a vendor granted protection by order of a federal bankruptcy court or a vendor granted an exemption under any rule of the Bureau of Employment Programs or the Insurance Commissioner, the commissioner may award a contract: *Provided*, That in no event may the contract be awarded to any vendor who has not paid all current state obligations for at least the four most recent calendar quarters, excluding the current calendar quarter, or with respect to any vendor who is in default on a repayment agreement with an agency of the state;

(6) The vendor is not in good standing with a licensing board, in that the vendor is not licensed when licensure is required by the law of this state, or the vendor has been found to be in violation of an applicable licensing law after notice, opportunity to be heard, and other due process required by law;

(7) The vendor is an active and knowing participant in dividing or planning procurements to circumvent the $25,000 threshold requiring a sealed bid or otherwise avoid the use of a

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sealed bid; or

(8) Violation of the terms of public contracts or subcontracts for:

(A) Willful failure to substantially perform in accordance with the terms of one or more public contracts;

(B) Performance in violation of standards established by law or generally accepted standards of the trade or profession amounting to intentionally deficient or grossly negligent performance on one or more public contracts;

(C) Use of substandard materials on one or more public contracts or defects in construction in one or more public construction projects amounting to intentionally deficient or grossly negligent performance, even if discovery of the defect is subsequent to acceptance of a construction project and expiration of any warranty thereunder;

(D) A repeated pattern or practice of failure to perform so serious and compelling as to justify disqualification; or

(E) Any other cause of a serious and compelling nature amounting to knowing and willful misconduct of the vendor that demonstrates a wanton indifference to the interests of the public and that caused, or that had a substantial likelihood of causing, serious harm to the public.

(g) Unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, for the purposes of this section, the term:

(1) "Debt" means any assessment, premium, penalty, fine, tax, or other amount of money owed to the state or any of its political subdivisions because of a judgment, fine, permit violation, license assessment, amounts owed to the Workers' Compensation Fund as defined in §23-2C-1 *et seq*. of this code, penalty, or other assessment or surcharge presently delinquent or due and required to be paid to the state or any of its political subdivisions, including any interest or additional penalties accrued thereon;

(2) "Debtor" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, limited liability company, or any other form of business association owing a debt to the state or any of its political subdivisions, and includes any person or entity that is in employer default;

(3) "Employer default" means having an outstanding balance or liability to the Old Fund or to the Uninsured Employers' Fund or being in policy default, as defined in §23-2C-2 of this code, failure to maintain mandatory workers' compensation coverage, or failure to fully meet its obligations as a workers' compensation self-insured employer. An employer is not in employer default if it has entered into a repayment agreement with the Insurance Commissioner and remains in compliance with the obligations under the repayment agreement;

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(4) "Political subdivision" means any county commission; municipality; county board of education; any instrumentality established by a county or municipality; any separate corporation or instrumentality established by one or more counties or municipalities, as permitted by law; or any public body charged by law with the performance of a government function and whose jurisdiction is coextensive with one or more counties or municipalities; and

(5) "Related party" means a party, whether an individual, corporation, partnership, association, limited liability company, or any other form of business association or other entity whatever, related to any vendor by blood, marriage, ownership, or contract through which the party has a relationship of ownership or other interest with the vendor so that the party will actually, or by effect, receive or control a portion of the benefit, profit, or other consideration from performance of a vendor contract with the party receiving an amount that meets or exceeds five percent of the total contract amount.

(h) The prohibitions of subdivision (5), subsection (f) of this section do not apply where a vendor has contested any tax administered pursuant to chapter 11 of this code, amount owed to the Workers' Compensation Fund as defined in §23-2C-1 *et seq*. of this code, permit fee, or environmental fee or assessment and the matter has not become final, or where the vendor has entered into a payment plan or agreement and the vendor is not in default of any of the provisions of such plan or agreement.

(i) The division may disqualify a vendor if award to the vendor would jeopardize the safe, secure, and orderly operations of the division.

(j) All bids, contract proposals, or contracts with the state or any of its political subdivisions submitted or approved under the provisions of this code shall include an affidavit that the vendor, prospective vendor, or a related party to the vendor or prospective vendor is not in employer default and does not owe any debt in an amount in excess of $1,000 or, if a debt is owed, that the provisions of subsection (h) of this section apply.

(k) If the division has to make a purchase under emergency conditions, or an emergency situation, that jeopardizes the safe, secure, and orderly operations of the division, as deemed by the commissioner, and approved by the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, subsection (b) of this section shall not apply.

(l) The commissioner may enter into agreements with medical schools and institutions of higher education in this state to develop standards for appropriate and innovative medical programming and care for inmates: *Provided*, That the division will follow the procedures set forth in subsection (b) of this section for delivery of regular and normal medical care within the facilities.

(m) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, any records obtained in response to solicitations for bids from the division shall not be subject to disclosure pursuant to §29B-1-1 *et seq*. of this code, until and unless the time frame for submission of bids has

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closed: *Provided*, That once bids close, the records may be exempt from disclosure pursuant to §29B-1-4 of this code. Any record relating to any solicitation for, or purchase of, any item related to the safe and secure running of any facility under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation is not subject to disclosure pursuant to §29B-1-1 *et seq*. of this code.

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§15A-3-14a. Creation of special fund for surplus property revenue; disposal of surplus property.

(a) There is hereby created a special revenue fund in the State Treasury known as the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation Surplus Property Fund. Moneys from this fund shall be used for facility maintenance and repair.

(b) The commissioner is hereby authorized to dispose of surplus state property owned by the division in the following manner:

(1) Transferring the particular commodities or expendable commodities between departments;

(2) Selling the commodities to county commissions, county boards of education, municipalities, public service districts, county building commissions, airport authorities, parks and recreation commissions, nonprofit domestic corporations qualified as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or volunteer fire departments in this state when the volunteer fire departments have been held exempt from taxation under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(3) Trading in the commodities as a part payment on the purchase of new commodities;

(4) Cannibalizing the commodities pursuant to procedures established under subsection (g) of this section;

(5) Properly disposing of the commodities as waste;

(6) Selling the commodities to the general public at the posted price or to the highest bidder by means of public auctions or sealed bids, after having first advertised the time, terms, and place of the sale as a Class II legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 et seq. of this code. The publication area for the publication is the county in which the sale is to be conducted. The sale may also be advertised in other advertising media that the division considers advisable. The division may sell to the highest bidder or to any one or more of the highest bidders, if there is more than one, or, if the best interest of the state will be served, reject all bids; or

(7) Selling the commodities to the highest bidder by means of an internet auction site approved by the division, as set forth in an emergency rule promulgated pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-15 of this code.

(c) Upon the sale to the general public or transfer of commodities or expendable commodities between departments, or upon the sale of commodities or expendable commodities to an eligible organization, the division shall set the price to be paid by the receiving eligible organization, with due consideration given to current market prices.

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(d) The division may sell expendable, obsolete, or unused motor vehicles owned by the division to an eligible organization, other than volunteer fire departments. In addition, the division may sell expendable, obsolete, or unused motor vehicles owned by the division with a gross weight in excess of 4,000 pounds to an eligible volunteer fire department. The division, with due consideration given to current market prices, shall set the price to be paid by the receiving eligible organization for motor vehicles sold pursuant to this provision: Provided, That the sale price of any motor vehicle sold to an eligible organization may not be less than the "average loan" value, as published in the most recent available eastern edition of the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Official Used Car Guide, if the value is available, unless the fair market value of the vehicle is less than the NADA "average loan" value, in which case the vehicle may be sold for less than the "average loan" value. The fair market value shall be based on a thorough inspection of the vehicle by an employee of the division who shall consider the mileage of the vehicle and the condition of the body, engine, and tires as indicators of its fair market value. If no fair market value is available, the division shall set the price to be paid by the receiving eligible organization with due consideration given to current market prices. The duly authorized representative of the eligible organization, for whom the motor vehicle or other similar surplus equipment is purchased or otherwise obtained, shall cause ownership and proper title to the motor vehicle to be vested only in the official name of the authorized governing body for whom the purchase or transfer was made. The ownership or title, or both, shall remain in the possession of that governing body and be nontransferable for a period of not less than one year from the date of the purchase or transfer. Resale or transfer of ownership of the motor vehicle or equipment prior to an elapsed period of one year may be made only by reason of certified unserviceability.

(e) The division shall report to the Legislative Auditor, semiannually, all sales of commodities or expendable commodities made during the preceding six months to eligible organizations. The report shall include a description of the commodities sold, the price paid by the eligible organization that received the commodities, and to whom each commodity was sold.

(f) The proceeds of the sales or transfers shall be deposited in the State Treasury in the special revenue account created in subsection (a) of this section.

(g)(1) For purposes of this section, "cannibalization" means the removal of parts from one commodity to use in the creation or repair of another commodity.

(2)(A) If the division intends to cannibalize an asset, the division shall document: (i) The commodity identification number; (ii) the commodity’s acquisition date; (iii) the commodity’s acquisition cost; (iv) a description of the commodity; (v) whether the commodity is operable and, if so, how well it operates; (vi) how the division will dispose of the remaining parts of the commodity; and (vii) who will cannibalize the commodity and how the person is qualified to remove and reinstall the parts.

(B) If the division has immediate plans to use the cannibalized parts, the division shall document for the commodity or commodities that will receive the cannibalized part or parts:

(i) The commodity identification number; (ii) the commodity's acquisition date; (iii) the commodity's acquisition cost; (iv) a description of the commodity; (v) whether the commodity is operable; (vi) whether the part restores the commodity to an operable condition; and (vii) the cost of the parts and labor to restore the commodity to an operable condition without cannibalization.

(C) If the division intends to retain the cannibalized parts for future use, it shall document that said parts have been retained for future use.

(D) The division shall develop procedures for the disposal of the residual components of cannibalized property.

(3) Whenever the division disposes of a commodity in a landfill, or by other lawful means of waste disposal, the division shall notate this on the inventory for the commodity and shall document the reasons why it was disposed of in such manner.

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§15A-3-15. Mutual aid agreements.

(a) The commissioner may enter into agreements to provide for the rendering of mutual aid with the political subdivisions of this state, other states, and the federal government to provide for the common defense, protect the public peace, health, and safety and to preserve the lives and property of the people of this state.

(b) Any agreement entered into under this section shall be with the consent and approval of the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, and shall include a provision within each agreement allowing for the immediate termination by the secretary or commissioner at any time.

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§15A-3-16. Funds for operations of jails under the jurisdiction of the commissioner.

(a) Any special revenue funds previously administered by the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority or its executive director are continued and shall be administered by the commissioner.

(b) Funds that have been transferred by §15A-3-16(a) of this code shall be limited in use to operations of jail functions, and for payment to the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority Board, for payment of indebtedness. In no case shall a fund be utilized to offset or pay operations of non-jail parts of the facility: *Provided*, That funds may be utilized on a pro rata basis for shared staff and for operational expenses of facilities being used as both prisons and jails.

(c) Whenever the commissioner determines that the balance in these funds is more than the immediate requirements of this article, he or she may request that the excess be invested until needed. Any excess funds so requested shall be invested in a manner consistent with the investment of temporary state funds. Interest earned on any moneys invested pursuant to this section shall be credited to these funds.

(d) These funds consist of the following:

(1) Moneys collected and deposited in the State Treasury which are specifically designated by Acts of the Legislature for inclusion in these funds;

(2) Contributions, grants, and gifts from any source, both public and private, specifically directed to the operations of jails under the control of the commissioner;

(3) All sums paid pursuant to §15A-3-16(g) of this code; and

(4) All interest earned on investments made by the state from moneys deposited in these funds.

(e) The amounts deposited in these funds shall be accounted for and expended in the following manner:

(1) Amounts deposited shall be pledged first to the debt service on any bonded indebtedness;

(2) After any requirements of debt service have been satisfied, the commissioner shall requisition from these funds the amounts that are necessary to provide for payment of the administrative expenses of this article, as limited by this section;

(3) The commissioner shall requisition from these funds, after any requirements of debt service have been satisfied, the amounts that are necessary for the maintenance and operation of jails under his or her control. These funds shall make an accounting of all amounts received from each county by virtue of any filing fees, court costs, or fines required by law to be deposited in these funds and amounts from the jail improvement funds of the

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various counties;

(4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, sums paid into these funds by each county pursuant to §15A-3-16(g) of this code for each inmate shall be placed in a separate account and shall be requisitioned from these funds to pay for costs incurred; and

(5) Any amounts deposited in these funds from other sources permitted by this article shall be expended based on particular needs to be determined by the commissioner.

(f)(1) After a jail facility becomes available pursuant to this article for the incarceration of inmates, each county within the region shall incarcerate all persons whom the county would have incarcerated in any jail prior to the availability of the jail facility in the jail facility, except those whose incarceration in a local jail facility used as a local holding facility is specified as appropriate under the previously promulgated, and hereby transferred standards and procedures developed by the Jail Facilities Standards Commission, and whom the sheriff or the circuit court elects to incarcerate therein.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of §15A-3-16(f)(1) of this code, circuit and magistrate courts are authorized to:

(A) Detain persons who have been arrested or charged with a crime in a county or municipal jail for a period not to exceed 96 hours; or

(B) Commit persons convicted of a crime in a county or municipal jail for a period not to exceed 14 days.

(g) When inmates are placed in a jail facility under the jurisdiction of the commissioner pursuant to §15A-3-16(f) of this code, the county, and municipality if the incarceration is a municipal violation, shall pay into this fund a cost per day for each incarcerated inmate, to be determined as set forth in subsection (k) of this section.

(h) The per diem costs for incarcerating inmates may not include the cost of construction, acquisition, or renovation of the regional jail facilities: *Provided*, That each jail facility or unit operating in this state shall keep a record of the date and time that an inmate is incarcerated, and a county may not be charged for a second day of incarceration for an individual inmate until that inmate has remained incarcerated for more than 24 hours. After that, in cases of continuous incarceration, subsequent per diem charges shall be made upon a county only as subsequent intervals of 24 hours pass from the original time of incarceration.

(i) The county is responsible for costs incurred by the division for housing and maintaining inmates in its facilities who are pretrial inmates and convicted misdemeanants. The costs of housing shall be borne by the division on a felony conviction when an inmate is incarcerated beginning the calendar day following the day of conviction. In no case shall the county be responsible for any costs of housing and maintaining felony convicted inmate populations.

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(j) The county is responsible for the costs incurred by the authority for housing and maintaining an inmate who, prior to a felony conviction on which the inmate is incarcerated and is awaiting transportation to a state correctional facility for a 60-day evaluation period as provided in §62-12-7a of this code.

(k) (1) Effective July 1, 2023, the cost per day, per inmate for an incarcerated inmate shall be determined as set forth in this subsection. The base per day, per inmate rate shall be set at $54.48. The State Budget Office shall annually examine the most recent three fiscal years of costs submitted by the commissioner for the cost of operating the jail facilities and units under his or her jurisdiction, and taking an average per day, per inmate cost of maintaining the operations of the jail facilities or units shall adjust the per day, per inmate rate annually. Notice of the adjusted per day, per inmate rate shall be provided to each county commission.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2023, the commissioner shall determine the pro rata share of inmate days per county. This figure shall be calculated by multiplying each county's population as contained in the 2020 United States Census by .52.

(3) Each county shall pay as its annual per diem jail cost:

(A) Eighty percent of the current per diem rate for the first 80 percent of its pro rata share of total billed inmate days;

(B) One hundred percent of the current per diem rate for its inmate days that are greater than 80 percent and up to 100 percent of its pro rata share of total billed inmate days; and

(C) One hundred twenty percent of the current per diem rate for its inmate days that exceed 100 percent of its pro rata share of total billed inmate days.

(4) Beginning July 1, 2031, and every 10 years thereafter the pro rata share of inmate days per county shall be calculated by dividing the number of inmate days from the previous calendar year by the state's population according to the most recent United States Census data and then multiplying that number by each county's population.

(5) The commissioner shall post on the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitations webpage by county:

(i) The pro rata share of inmate days;

(ii) The base number of pro rata days;

(iii) The reduced rate of the per day, per inmate costs;

(iv) The increased per day, per inmate; and

(v) Any other information deemed necessary by the commissioner.

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(l) In cases in which the incarcerated inmate was placed in a jail facility by the municipal police of a Class I or Class II municipal corporation as defined in §8-1-3 of this code, or of a Class III municipal corporation as defined in §8-1-3 of this code but with a population in excess of 4,000 according to the most recent census taken under the authority of the United States, and the incarceration resulted from a charge that could have been brought in municipal court but was brought in a magistrate court of this state, the county commission responsible for paying the cost per day pursuant to this subsection shall be entitled to reimbursement from the municipal corporation of actual expenditures for up to five days of per diem costs borne by the county commission.

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§15A-3-17. Jail Operations Partial Reimbursement Fund.

(a) There is continued in the State Treasury the Jail Operations Partial Reimbursement Fund.

(b) Revenues deposited into this fund shall be composed of fees collected by magistrate courts pursuant to §50-3-2(a) of this code, and by circuit courts pursuant to §59-1-11 of this code.

(c) Revenues deposited into this fund shall be used to reimburse those counties and municipalities participating in the jail system for the cost of incarceration.

(d) The State Treasurer shall, in cooperation with the division, administer the fund. The State Treasurer shall determine the amount of funds available for reimbursement and, upon receiving a report from the commissioner containing the total number of inmate days in the fiscal year immediately concluded, the State Treasurer shall calculate the reimbursement to each participant based upon a pro rata share formula: Provided, That only counties and municipalities that, on July 1 of each year, are not more than 90 days delinquent in payments for moneys to incarcerate its offenders are eligible to receive this reimbursement: Provided, however, That the pro rata share formula shall not include the counties or municipalities which are not entitled to reimbursement pursuant to this section.

(e) A participant's share shall be comparable with its total of inmate days, which shall consist of the number of inmates it contributed to the regional jail system and the number of days those inmates remained incarcerated.

(f) A participant's share shall be disbursed annually, within 90 days of July 1 each year, as provided in §15A-3-17(d) of this section.

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§15A-3-18. Rules.

(a) The commissioner is authorized to propose rules for legislative authorization pursuant to §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code or develop policies for the proper execution of his or her duties and powers; adopt rules or policies for the government of the institutions named or referred to in §15A-3-12 of this code; adopt rules or policies for the administration of the financial and business affairs of the institutions named or referred to in §15A-3-12 of this code, and establish policies regarding the treatment of mentally ill inmates, which reflect the safety and security concerns specific to jails and correctional facilities.

(b) All legislative rules and policies of the former Division of Corrections, the former Division of Juvenile Services, and the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority shall remain effective until amended or terminated pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code by the Division of Correction and Rehabilitation: Provided, That these rules shall expire on July 1, 2021, if not superseded sooner.

(c) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, the division is not subject to the rules promulgated by, nor any mandates upon, the board of health for the treatment of mentally ill patients.

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