



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Joint Fiscal Committee
From: Rebecca Wasserman, Office of Legislative Council
Date: July 23, 2019
Subject: Approval to Release Funds for a Correctional Facility Assessment

Pursuant to the terms of 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(d) (2019 Capital Bill), the Joint Fiscal Committee is being asked to consider whether to approve the release of FY 2020 capital funds to the Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) for a correctional facility assessment.

In the 2019 Capital Bill, BGS is authorized to use up to \$200,000.00 of the FY 2020 amount appropriated to them for Statewide planning, use, and contingency to assess relative costs and resource requirements for potential construction of a correctional facility that ranges in scale. The assessment shall be used to accommodate the results of a study currently being conducted by the Council of State Governments to assess the population trends and programming in the State's corrections system. BGS has provided examples of the terms "resource requirements" and "cost assessments," which are included as Attachment A to this memorandum.

The 2019 Capital Bill requires that the funds for the assessment only become available to BGS after approval by both the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee and the Joint Fiscal Committee. At its July 18, 2019 meeting, the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee voted to approve the release of funds with certain conditions. The terms of the approval are included as Attachment B to this memorandum.

ATTACHMENT A

Examples of “resource requirements” and “cost assessments” (as provided by the Department of Buildings and General Services)

- Examples of “resource requirements”: depending on the number of beds, the supporting administrative and mechanical facilities that would need to be scaled accordingly.
 - How big of a sewer line or heat plant is needed?
 - How many acres of land or parking spaces are needed?
 - Kitchen space standards to feed [xx] number of people or infirmary bed standards for [xx] number of people.
- Examples of “cost assessments”:
 - A rough idea of what it would cost to build (not including land acquisition).
 - Permitting (the physical construction piece), keeping in mind that there are a number of variables.

ATTACHMENT B

The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee (Committee) approves the release of up to \$200,000.00 in FY 2020 capital funds to the Department of Buildings and General Services to commence an assessment of the relative costs and resource requirements for potential construction of a correctional facility that ranges in scale, in compliance with 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 42, Sec. 2(d) (the 2019 Capital Bill).

For the purposes of this approval, “resource requirements” means the mechanical and administrative services necessary to support a correctional facility with a given number of beds, and “cost assessments” means an estimate of the costs of construction, excluding land acquisition and including permitting.

Committee approval is pursuant to the following conditions:

1. the Department of Buildings and General Services shall submit a draft version of the RFP for the assessment to the Committee at the August 29th meeting;
2. the assessment shall accommodate the results of the Council of State Government’s study, which has an expected completion date by December 31, 2019;
3. the assessment shall be for a medium-security facility and shall include a comparison of no less than three sizes of facilities, including 50, 100, and 175 beds; and
4. the assessment shall not be for a facility with more than 200 beds.