



OFFICE OF
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

ROGER L. DE GROOT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

April 22, 2003

Representative Garey D. Bies
State Capitol, Room 125 West
P. O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Representative Bies:

Marinette County is pleased with the introduction of Assembly Bill 252 which would allow Wisconsin Counties to accept and board jail detainees from adjacent Michigan counties. As you know, Marinette County is constructing a Law Enforcement Center which includes a county jail. The County will not immediately, and hopefully not for some time, utilize all the beds in the jail. Oconto County has expressed interest in using some beds, and we have offered additional beds to Menominee County, Michigan, if this bill subsequently becomes law.

In this time of budget cuts, passage of this bill could possibly help Menominee County, Michigan, solve its jail space problem as well as help Marinette County's cash flow for operation of our jail.

We support the passage of Assembly Bill 252.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Degroot
Marinette County Administrator

RLD/ms

Cc: Assembly Speaker John Gard



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts

FROM: Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf, Senior Legislative Associate *SDK*

DATE: April 23, 2003

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 252

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) supports Assembly Bill 252 which allows county jails to detain persons who are detained by a county that borders this state and is located in the state of Michigan if the counties involved enter into an interstate cooperation agreement that takes into account all the requirements of Wisconsin law regarding the detention of persons in county jails.

The majority of counties in Wisconsin has either completed a jail expansion/renovation project or is in the process of constructing a new jail or new jail beds for the detention of prisoners. Jail populations in the state of Wisconsin have been increasing over the years. To prevent a situation where a new county jail is full upon opening, or needs to be expanded five years or less after project completion, counties are building jails that will meet their space needs in 10-15 years and beyond. In the interim, counties have the capacity to hold additional inmates. Passage of this bill will allow a county bordering the state of Michigan to hold inmates for their counterparts in Michigan which not only promotes intergovernmental cooperation, but also allows the county to receive revenue to offset the costs associated with jail construction, operation and maintenance (which provides property tax relief for the citizens of the county).

WCA respectfully requests, however, that the bill be amended to give all border counties the ability to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with neighboring counties in other states. WCA has heard from at least one additional county (Polk County) that would welcome the opportunity to provide assistance to their neighbors, as well as receive the economic benefits associated with contracting current excess jail capacity.

WCA respectfully requests your support for Assembly Bill 252. Thank you for considering our comments.

AB 252

CL - City - state or city

AB 252 - WI City to detain

Michigan city prisoners
provided the two
countries have an
intergovernmental agreement.

Un'

66,0303 - Muni # interstate co-op.

Sub(B)

Helps to offset the costs of building the new city jail. Can reduce the property tax as a result.

Establish houseable prisoners by defensive level? Counties will likely be particular in the prisoners they would take.

Counties with unused beds can board with prisoners. Could provide some additional revenue to counties.

Compact will say who has primary jurisdiction in the event a MI prisoner ~~do~~ commits a crime in the WI prison,