



Luther S. Olsen
State Senator
14th District

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
FROM: Senator Luther Olsen
DATE: March 9, 2020
SUBJECT: Testimony in favor of Assembly Bill 811 & Senate Bill 781

Thank you Chairman Wanggaard and the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety for holding a hearing and allowing me to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 811 and Senate Bill 781.

The Village of Redgranite Police Department is responsible for serving and protecting its residents just like all other departments, but unlike most, it is also responsible for investigating criminal activity that takes place at a state owned correctional institution.

In the last five years, the department has responded to Redgranite Correctional Facility 230 times. When there is an issue at the facility, the Village must provide investigative services. The Village currently has two full time and two half time officers so those services are provided by taking one or more of those officers off of the Village's streets. Not only are those resources pulled from the Village to the state facility, the state does not reimburse for the expense of those services.

This legislation allocates \$8,000 each year of the current budget to the Department of Corrections for the purpose of reimbursing the Village of Redgranite for expensive associated with providing services to the Redgranite Correctional Facility.

Thank you, members. I ask for your support and would be more than happy to answer any questions.



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

Testimony for the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

AB 811/ SB 781 reimbursement to the village of Redgranite for local law enforcement investigation services to a correctional institution and making an appropriate

Thank you Chairman and committee members for the opportunity to provide informational testimony on AB 811/SB 781. My Name is Paulina de Haan, and I am the Legislative Advisor for the Department of Corrections (DOC).

The DOC has 37 facilities operated by the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) and one site (with two facilities) operated by the Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC). These facilities are operated on 24/7/365 basis. Additionally, the Division of Community Corrections (DCC) also works in 107 offices located throughout the state, where adults under supervision can go to meet with their assigned agent. The DOC is located all over of the State of Wisconsin, and like any other state agency, depends upon local governments to provide first responder services to our facilities and offices.

Specific to law enforcement related issues, when an incident occurs that requires a criminal investigation, the DOC is not authorized to conduct those investigations. Moreover, an outside entity to conduct those investigations is necessary to prevent conflicts of interest. Therefore, the important work of criminal investigations lies with the local law enforcement authority. Law enforcement also has the authority to submit a criminal case for charges to the local district attorney's office.

The Municipal Services Payments (MSP) program managed by the Department of Administration (DOA) was created to cover routine costs typically paid via property taxes, and this includes fire, police, and solid waste services provided by a municipality. The MSP program is funded by a dedicated appropriation that has a set budget, and reimbursements are prorated and cover approximately 35% of total claims. This reimbursement is paid only to villages, towns, and cities, but not counties.

The DOC recognizes the unique impact that our correctional facilities can have on a local government and its first responder resources, and as a result, we want to be able to develop an equitable statewide solution to this concern.

Given the fact that our facilities and offices span across the state and impacts most of the counties and the local governments within those counties, the DOC will be working to develop a proposed resolution to this local government concern that can be fairly applied across the state. Once we have the necessary data and details, we will be more than happy to share with our local partners and the legislature.

Thank you for your time.

Paulina de Haan, Legislative Advisor
Office of the Secretary



KEVIN PETERSEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Chairman Wanggaard and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety;

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 781 – reimbursement to the village of Redgranite for local law enforcement investigation services to a correctional institution and making an appropriation.

The Village of Redgranite Police Department is the main investigator of criminal activity at the state owned Redgranite Correctional Facility (RGCI). The Village's police department currently has two full time and two half time officers.

The Village of Redgranite Police Dept. responded to RGCI over 230 times during the last 5 years requiring a law enforcement response and investigative follow-up. The Department of Corrections (DOC) does not currently reimburse the village for any investigative work.

Waupun, Columbia, and Boscobel all get reimbursed for calls to state facilities. In our current budget the Village of Allouez received \$60,000 to cover costs associated with calls to the Green Bay Correctional Institute, because like Redgranite it is not included in the program that reimburses Waupun, Columbia, and Boscobel.

When there is an episode whether criminal or not at the Redgranite Correctional Institute, the Village must provide investigative service taking one or more of their officers off of the village streets. Not only does that create an unsafe situation for the residents, the village police department is not being reimbursed for their time.

SB 781 provides \$8,000 for the Department of Corrections (DOC) in Fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for the purpose of reimbursing the Village of Redgranite for actual expenses associated with providing law enforcement and investigative services to a correctional institute.