

COMMONWEAL

The Juvenile Justice Program

Budget bulletin: May 14, 2010

CALIFORNIA MAY BUDGET REVISION PROPOSES SHIFTING STATE YOUTH PAROLE SUPERVISION TO COUNTIES

Today the Governor unveiled his May Revision, updating the budget he submitted to the Legislature in January. With the state still facing a \$22 billion deficit, the Governor today proposed the complete elimination of CalWorks (welfare-to-work), a freeze in local education funds, elimination of state-funded child care and massive cuts in community mental health programs. In his press conference, the Governor complained that lawmakers have repeatedly ignored his calls to repair structural defects in the state budget. He painted a stark picture of the program sacrifices now needed under dire economic circumstances.

On the juvenile justice front, the Governor announced several changes from the January Budget Proposal. The key adjustments revealed today are:

- *Transfer responsibility for supervision of new DJJ parolees from the state to county probation.* Beginning in FY 2011-12, pay counties \$15,000 per parolee per year, over the average parole supervision time, to assume this responsibility. The Governor estimates FY 2010-11 savings based on this parole shift at \$ 4.6 million. Currently there are approximately 1,800 youth on the DJJ parole caseload. Further details on the parole realignment plan were not available at this time—including what if any functions the DJJ Parole Division would retain, what the continuing role of the Juvenile Parole Board will be and how violations of parole will be handled if and when supervision responsibilities are realigned to counties.
- *Cut time adds and increase time credits for DJJ wards.* This would produce an estimated savings \$22 million in the DJJ budget FY 2010-11 due to earlier releases of wards and lower institution populations. This restates and reaffirms the Governor's January Budget pledge to limit time adds.
- *Withdraw the January Budget proposal to lower DJJ age of jurisdiction from age 25 (current) to age 21.* This would result in an increase in the DJJ budget for FY 2010-11 of \$ 35.7 million over the January estimate. No further explanation was offered as to why the DJJ age reduction proposal has been withdrawn.
- *Add \$300 million in authorized lease-revenue bond funds for the construction of county-level youthful offender rehabilitation facilities,* described as “necessary to provide facilities to enhance the capacity of local communities to implement an effective continuum of responses to juvenile crime and delinquency”.

- *Beginning in FY 2011-12, increase general funds by \$503 million for local public safety grants now funded by a vehicle license fee increase that expires in 2011. Presumably this includes general fund support for the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and the Juvenile Probation Camp Fund (JPCF) which are presently tied to the VLF tax.*