

TESTIMONY ON RAISED BILL NO. 5540

I'm here to offer testimony regarding RAISED BILL NO. 5540.

My name is Albert J. Chiucarello. I work at Council 4 AFSCME as a Staff Representative for the Corrections NP-4 Bargaining Unit. I negotiated their last two bargaining agreements.

Raised Bill No. 5540 would require the DOC to allocate enough money to staff their facilities properly. Raised Bill No. 5540 is being promulgated by the NP-4 Bargaining Unit due to the fact that the Department of Correction is undermanned at the DOC facilities when we look at the number of custody staff assigned to each facility versus the number of post positions that need to be filled each day on each shift. I offer that in 2003 the Program and Review Committee reported after investigating this same issue that DOC was undermanned by 700 positions (CO). The report offered that DOC utilized 1,000,000 hours of O.T. to fill the void.

At the present time, the Union concludes that the DOC is undermanned by at least 500 CO's.

Our conclusion is predicated on the assertion that DOC does not utilize the NIC Shift Relief Formula. I offer that on 9/10/03 Commissioner Lantz testified that DOC did staff utilizing the NIC Shift Relief Formula.

I offer that in 2003 DOC generated their own Shift Relief Formula and that their formula for staffing dilutes the number of CO staff needed to fill the post positions at each facility on each shift. The Union offers that the shortage of staff leads to a number of collateral problems.

I would offer the following facts as proof positive that there is a need for legislation being passed to rectify staffing issues in DOC.

- For the fiscal year '04-'05, DOC had to request an allocation of over \$25 million dollars due to their budgeting deficiency.

I tie this to the fact that their budget did not have enough monies allocated in their Personnel Services Account; thus the deficiency. The Union offers that there would not have been a deficiency if the NIC SRF had been used. I'm under the impression that DOC will be back requesting deficiency monies again in that their utilization of the non-NIC SRF will lead to such. At the November 15, 2005 Appropriations Hearing, Commissioner Lantz offered that there is a projected deficit.

- During this fiscal annum DOC has utilized approximately 55,000 hours of O.T. per pay period to fill mandated post positions.

I offer that 55,000 hours per pay period equates out to approximately 1.4 million hours of overtime for the fiscal annum in that there are 26.1 pay periods per fiscal annum.

I offer that a deficiency for 2005-2006 could have been averted if DOC had utilized the NIC Shift Relief Formula for manning purposes.

Thus the need for Raised Bill No. 5540.

I respectfully offer that the Union has communicated over and over again to DOC that utilization of the non-NIC Shift Relief Formula is leading to negative impacts to staff, inmates and the taxpayers!

If you have any questions, please ask.