

**Written Testimony**  
**Theresa C. Lantz, Commissioner**  
**Department of Correction**

**March 23, 2009**

**Senate Bill 1145: An Act Concerning Repairs, Additions and Alterations to State Buildings**

The Department of Correction (DOC) respectfully submits testimony to express support for Senate Bill 1145, *An Act Concerning Repairs, Additions and Alterations to State Buildings*. This bill would allow DOC supervision over projects having a value of two million dollars or less. The commissioner of the Department of Public Works (DPW) still retains charge and supervisory authority over projects in excess of two million dollars and the DPW commissioner's approval is still necessary for agencies to take charge of projects less than two million dollars.

This proposal would be beneficial to the state and DOC in two ways. First, there are significant cost savings by allowing individual agencies like the DOC that have in-house staff to complete projects up to two million dollars. Anytime an agency has to go to DPW to administer a project there is an administration fee of approximately 6%. On a \$500,000 project this is as much as \$30,000. Also, DPW typically does not have the necessary in-house architectural or engineering resources to pull from. These costs typically start at approximately 10% of the project cost and can be as much as \$50,000. When combined with the savings for administration fees, the savings are significant for an agency such as the DOC that may do three to four projects per year with DPW. So significant, that one additional project could be completed at no additional cost to the state.

Second, because DPW is tasked with completing all of the projects over the \$500,000 threshold, its resources are scattered throughout the state. By changing the threshold to two million dollars, agencies such as the DOC can take on a greater percentage of the workload that is ours to begin with.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 1145.