

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

## Connecticut General Assembly

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FROM: Jonathan Palmer

SUBJECT: Prison Closure Savings

You asked if the changes contained in SB 505, An Act Concerning a Second Chance Society, were necessary to implement savings in SB 501, An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017.

The bail reform sections of SB 505 eliminate bonds with surety for most individuals charged with misdemeanors. As of February 2016, there are approximately 550 offenders incarcerated pre-trial due to unpaid bail that would be subject to the changes under the bill. While the bill eliminates bonds with surety for most misdemeanor offenders, it does not eliminate bonds without surety for those offenders.

SB 501 contains \$15.8 million in savings related to the closure of a prison, in addition to general reductions of \$34.8 million in the Department of Correction (DOC), among other policy changes. To the extent that changes in the bill reduce the pre-trial prison population, the reductions will assist in efforts to close a facility, and meet the total spending reductions of \$67.6 million in DOC. While the changes contained in SB 505 will assist in closing a facility, those changes alone will not result in the closure of a prison.

I hope that you find this information helpful. Please contact me if you have any questions or need further assistance.