

# CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

September 4, 2009 - Weekly Update

---

---

**State President Position:** CCSO mailed out nominations for any member interested in running for the CCSO State President position. The State President position is up for election at the end of this year. The duties and the pertinent information are included in the nomination letter mail out.

**Assembly Votes on Prison Reform Bill:** The state Assembly approved a prison bill that by next June would reduce the prison population by 17,000 inmates instead of 27,000 to save the state cash. The amended bill would reduce the prison population by allowing some prisoners to be released early if they complete certain rehabilitation programs such as earning General Educational Development certificates; change the state's parole system so that some low- and moderate-risk offenders would not be subject to cancellation of parole; and allow certain felons who violate probation to serve time in county jails.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass vowed to continue working to find additional savings in the prison budget. "My intention is to resolve the \$220 million (shortfall) before the end of legislative session," Sept. 11, she told reporters shortly after the 41-35 vote.

The bill now heads back to the Senate. The controversial parts of the bill that were removed are:

- Creation of a commission to revamp the state's rules on sentencing and parole.
- Allowing sick and elderly inmates to serve their sentences in home detention or community hospitals with GPS tracking devices.
- Changing some felonies such as petty theft to misdemeanors.
- Changing the grand theft threshold from \$400, set in 1982, to \$2,500.

These items will likely return as separate pieces of legislation, Assembly Speaker Bass said. Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, hinted the amended bill is not acceptable. "The Assembly took a good first step, ... but it's not a complete package," he said in a written statement.

**CalPERS Files Lawsuit for Review of State Furlough:** CalPERS filed legal action for judicial review of the state's furlough program. CalPERS Board President Rob Feckner said: "State law does not permit general fund budget problems to jeopardize the financial soundness of CalPERS or the benefits that we are obligated to pay retirees."

The furlough also limits the pension fund's ability to provide services to members, and to meet its contractual responsibilities to local employers. The furlough places CalPERS at risk of not providing timely disability and retirement checks, as well as health care benefit services.

**Governor Asks Federal Judges to Stay Inmate Release Order – Judges Refuse Delay:** Governor Schwarzenegger asked the panel of federal judges to stay last month's order that directed CDCR to create a plan to remove 40,000 inmates because this directive would be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The 18-page brief filed by the Attorney General asks for a stay until the Supreme Court decides the issue. The filing cited that "such a dramatic reduction in the California prison population is likely to result in increased crime."

However, the three federal judges scolded the administration for seeking the delay. "This court has been more than patient with the state and its officials" in waiting for California to reduce overcrowding to

improve medical and mental health care for inmates, the judges said in a five-page ruling. "We are persuaded that it is now in the best interests of all concerned to act as swiftly as possible."

The state is under order to submit a plan to reduce the prison population size to the court by Sept. 18. Schwarzenegger spokesman Aaron McLear said the administration would ask the nation's high court on Friday to stay the lower courts' requirement that the state present its plan this month.

**CDCR Secretary Cate Thanks L.A. Firefighters:** Two County of Los Angeles Fire Department firefighters assigned to the Mount Gleason Conservation Camp #16 located near Palmdale in Los Angeles County tragically lost their lives on August 30, 2009. CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate issued the following statement: "Fire Captain Ted Hall and Firefighter Specialist Arnie Quinones worked hand in hand with CDCR staff at Mount Gleason Conservation Camp to provide supervision and training to the inmates assigned there. They are to be credited with helping to save the lives of three CDCR employees and 55 inmates. On behalf of everyone at CDCR we are humbled and honored by their sacrifice."

May Captain Hall and Firefighter Quinones Rest in Peace.

T a k e C a r e a n d B e S a f e