



NEWS RELEASE

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MDOC Report Shows Correctional Agency Can Operate Two Private Prisons at Lower Costs

Jackson—The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) today released an independent accountants' report that supports the agency's position that it could operate two private prisons at lower costs than the contracted per diem. The MDOC financial statement shows that the state correctional agency could operate the Delta Correctional Facility in Greenwood, Miss., and the Marshall County Correctional Facility in Holly Springs, Miss., at a lower daily inmate cost at a population of 750 inmates and at full capacity, which is 1,000 inmates.

"I have consistently stated that MDOC could operate these two facilities at a lower cost to taxpayers than what is currently paid by contract to the private prison operators," said MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. "This independent accountant's report confirmed our numbers are accurate."

The certified accountants with Smith, Turner & Reeves examined the inmate population forecasted expenditures and certified their validity. Their report states, "In our opinion, the accompanying forecasts are presented in conformity with the guidelines for presentation of a forecast established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the underlying assumptions provide a reasonable basis for management's forecasts."

(more)

MDOC Private Prison Costs Report
Page 2

The report shows the following operating costs per inmate, per day and the present contract rate.

Average Number of Inmates	<u>750</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>1,000</u>
MDOC Operating Costs (Delta)	\$28.24	\$29.19	\$26.67
Present Contract Rate (Delta)	\$28.28	\$28.28	\$28.28
MDOC Operating Costs (Marshall)	\$28.05	\$29.00	\$26.49
Present Contract Rate (Marshall)	\$28.28	\$28.28	\$28.28

“The difference in the operating costs between an inmate population of 750 and 1,000 inmates reflects the costs, including facility maintenance and staffing requirements, to open up the last 250 beds in the facility,” said Commissioner Johnson. “Should the MDOC choose to operate these facilities, the costs at the 850 inmate population would be minimal as the facility would be utilized at its maximum capacity.”

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MEDIA NOTE: If you would like a copy of the report, please call Jennifer Griffin, MDOC Communications Director, at (601) 359-5721.