

**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67**

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 101

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 22, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 67, Polanco. Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations.

This measure would reestablish the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations to assume primary responsibility for providing legislative scrutiny over prison construction and operations, including investigation of inmate population management issues.

WHEREAS, As a result of the passage of Proposition 184 and the recent enactment of other laws, the inmate population of the state prison system is projected to increase by unprecedented numbers. The Department of Corrections currently operates 33 state adult correctional facilities, 38 camps, and 56 community correctional facilities, housing more than 155,000 inmates. The Department of Corrections also retains jurisdiction over more than 100,000 parolees; and

WHEREAS, As evidenced by the defeat of Proposition 205, the "Youthful and Adult Offender Local Facilities Bond Act of 1996" on the November 5, 1996, ballot, the people of the State of California are unwilling to support financially the expansion of correctional facilities. Californians are demanding greater fiscal accountability for the operation of correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, The inmate population is projected to increase to over 171,000 in the 1998–99 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Controlling the rapid growth of corrections construction and operations costs is one of the greatest challenges facing this state. The total proposed budget for the Department of Corrections for the 1998–99 fiscal year is approximately four billion one hundred million dollars (\$4,100,000,000); and

WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 of the 1997–98 Regular Session reauthorized the existence of the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations until June 30, 1998; and

WHEREAS, In order to provide for joint legislative oversight of the state's fastest growing segment of government, and to ensure a sense of fiscal responsibility to the people of California, it is vital that the



Legislature permanently reestablish the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations is hereby reestablished. The committee shall assume primary responsibility for providing legislative scrutiny over prison construction and operations; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the committee shall also review and make recommendations on inmate population management issues as they affect problems of overcrowding, recidivism, and the successful return to society by inmates; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the committee shall consist of four Members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and four Members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly. A Member of the Senate shall chair the committee. The chairperson shall appoint staff persons who shall be authorized to inspect prison facilities and departmental documents, except as otherwise provided by law; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the committee and its members shall have all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly as they are adopted and amended from time to time, which rules are incorporated herein and made applicable to this committee and its members; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Senate Committee on Rules may make money available from the Senate Operating Fund as it deems necessary for the expenses of the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations and its members. Any expenditure of money shall be made in compliance with policies set forth by the Senate Committee on Rules and shall be subject to the approval of the Senate Committee on Rules; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations shall, within 15 days of authorization and consistent with the normal annual appropriations process for funding legislative committees, present its initial budget to the Senate Committee on Rules for its review, comment, and approval; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations shall submit a report at the end of each legislative session to the Legislature on its activities; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Joint Legislative Committee on Prison Construction and Operations is authorized to act until November 30, 2000, at which time the committee's existence shall terminate; and be it further



*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a suitably prepared copy of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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