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# CITIZENS SUMMARY

## Findings in the audit of Department of Corrections County Reimbursement Program

<p>Inadequate Reimbursement Rate Results in State Liabilities and Increased Subsidization of State Costs at the Local Level</p>	<p>Appropriations and reimbursement rates for the reimbursement of criminal costs, prisoner transportation, and extradition costs for state prisoners to Missouri counties have generally kept up with inflation over the past decade, but have not kept up with reimbursement requests submitted from the counties. In addition, incarceration costs incurred by counties for state prisoners have continued to increase, resulting in county governments increasingly subsidizing state incarceration costs.</p>
<p>Clarification in State Law Needed</p>	<p>Clarification is needed in state law to improve clarity and consistency for counties. Officials from the Department of Corrections (DOC) as well as several county officials stated the statutory wording of Section 221.105.3, RSMo, was unclear regarding the state's potential maximum liability to counties and could be open to multiple interpretations. The state prisoner transport reimbursement methodology does not align with actual costs incurred by the counties. State law defining which cases are eligible for county reimbursement is inconsistent and can result in uncertainty for counties about when and if incarceration costs for certain inmates will be reimbursed, and can result in administrative burden.</p>
<p>Weaknesses in DOC Processes and Procedures</p>	<p>The DOC has not requested sufficient funds to pay outstanding liabilities to counties and the department's annual budget requests have not acknowledged the state's liability to county governments. The DOC's procedures for processing county reimbursement requests are not adequate, resulting in overpayments to county governments.</p>

Due to the nature of this report no rating is provided.



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**Recommendations in the audit of Department of Corrections County Reimbursement Program**

Inadequate Reimbursement Rate Results in State Liabilities and Increased Subsidization of State Costs at the Local Level	<p>The General Assembly further evaluate the current funding appropriated to the incarceration reimbursement program to ensure the program is paying the desired level of resources to the local level, and ensure appropriation amounts are sufficient to pay the state's current liabilities timely.</p>
Clarification in State Law Needed	<p>The General Assembly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 Consider reviewing Section 221.105, RSMo, and amending the statute to clarify legislative intent and statutory requirements of county reimbursement rates.</li><li>2.2 Consider amending Section 57.290.2, RSMo, to align prisoner transportation reimbursements with actual costs incurred.</li><li>2.3 Consider amending state law to provide consistency among cases receiving state reimbursement and reduce the time period between the time boarding services are provided and reimbursements are paid to counties.</li></ol>
Weaknesses in DOC Processes and Procedures	<p>The Department of Corrections (DOC):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3.1 Request appropriation amounts necessary to pay all obligations of the department timely. In addition, the department should ensure budget request documents provide a complete financial history of the program by identifying total amounts owed to local governments.</li><li>3.2 Implement controls and procedures to ensure electronic records contain accurate and complete information. In addition, the department should ensure claims approved for payment have not been previously paid and comply with state law. The department should review the erroneous payments identified and reduce future billings as appropriate.</li></ol>