

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 2254
 SPONSOR: Senator Argenziano
 SUBJECT: Prisoners Convicted in Federal Courts
 DATE: April 9, 2003 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Clodfelter	Cannon	CJ	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	GO	_____
3.	_____	_____	ACJ	_____
4.	_____	_____	AP	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill amends s. 944.091, F. S., to authorize the Department of Corrections to contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) for the incarceration of federal prisoners at state correctional facilities. Eligible prisoners must have been convicted of an offense in the federal courts in Florida. The contract must provide for reimbursing Florida in full for all costs or expenses involved, exchange of prisoners under formulas or conditions specified in the contract, or compensation through a combination of both payment and exchange. The department is prohibited from accepting more U.S. prisoners than are transferred to the BOP under the contract. Prisoners transferred into state custody are subject to the same laws and rules as other inmates in Florida correctional institutions, unless the contract specifically provides otherwise or such rules are inconsistent with the sentence imposed by the federal court.

This bill substantially amends, creates, or repeals the following section of the Florida Statutes: 944.091.

II. Present Situation:

The Department of Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Prisons currently have an exchange arrangement for 30 prisoners based upon 18 U.S.C. 5003(a) and Executive Order 98-188. Inter-Governmental Agreement 589-8 provides for an exchange of up to 30 state prisoners for BOP inmates on a one-for-one basis under the following conditions: (1) the BOP agreed to accept from the State of Florida up to 30 sentenced ‘Task Force Inmates,’ who were inmates identified as those prosecuted under the Joint Federal and State Homicide Task Force Agreement in 1983 and who were still serving time for convictions under that agreement and (2) Florida agreed to accept into custody up to 30 low security level BOP inmates who have ties to the state.

The application of Inter-Governmental Agreement 589-8 is the subject of lawsuits filed by transferred prisoners seeking to be returned to the BOP. These cases have included proceedings at all levels of the state court system as well as in the federal courts. The prisoners claim that they should be returned to BOP custody because the Agreement does not comply with s. 944.091, F.S., which provides that the department may board federal prisoners who have less than six months remaining on their federal sentence and have family relationships or job opportunities in Florida. Compensation is to be paid at an agreed rate, which must not be less than the department's average incarceration cost per day.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates two new subsections of s. 944.091, F.S.

Section 1 of the bill creates s. 944.091(2), F.S., which explicitly provides statutory authority for the exchange of prisoners pursuant to Inter-Governmental Agreement 589-8. This will clarify the statutory basis for the agreement, which was entered into under the authority of Executive Order 98-188 and 18 U.S.C. 5003(a). The department indicates that the bill will eliminate unnecessary and burdensome litigation concerning the agreement and provide a more flexible avenue for prisoner exchange arrangements through direct contracting authority rather than through individual Executive Orders.

Section 944.091(2), F.S., will permit the department to contract with the United States to provide custody, care, subsistence, education, treatment, and training for persons who are convicted of criminal offenses by federal courts located in Florida. Such a contract must either provide for: (1) full reimbursement to Florida for all costs or expenses; (2) exchange of prisoners under formulas or conditions specified in the contract; or (3) compensation through a combination of both payment and exchange. Florida may not accept more prisoners than it transfers under the agreement.

Section 1 of the bill also creates s. 944.091(3), F.S., which provides that persons transferred to the department pursuant to s. 944.091(1) or (2), F.S., are subject to the same laws and rules as prisoners sentenced for violations of Florida law, unless the contract specifies otherwise or the law or rule is inconsistent with the federal sentence.

Section 2 of the bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2003.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The department indicates that some litigation costs should be saved because the bill will resolve pending litigation filed by federal prisoners currently in state custody.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
