



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR Mike Haridopolos
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Mike Haridopolos, President
SUBJECT: Prison Privatization
DATE: January 20, 2012

After hearing questions and concerns from my fellow Senators in the Senate Committee on Rules regarding Senate Bill 2036, I have decided to proceed in an abundance of caution. This bill, if reported favorably out of the Senate Committee on Rules on Monday, January 23, 2012, will be referred to the Senate Committee on Budget to be heard on Wednesday, January 25, 2012.

However, I do want to be clear that I stated and addressed my position on prison privatization on numerous occasions. In the fall, I issued a memo after asking staff to take an in-depth look at this issue and ensure that our approach to prison privatization was both thoughtful and transparent. Staff found that the language was fully vetted in the previous session as illustrated by the attached and below chart, and because this language was passed on the Senate floor last year, it was eligible to be expedited through the process this year.

I also authored an opinion piece stating my position that it is paramount that we prioritize our state's spending by privatizing prisons, which has the potential to save a minimum of 22 million taxpayer dollars that I firmly believe are better spent on education, health care and economic development. Finally, I held a media availability where the majority of the time was used reiterating and expressing my support for prison privatization efforts.

With that in mind, I believe that this additional committee reference will ensure a thoughtful debate on prison privatization, and I am hopeful that this will alleviate any concerns my fellow Senators may have.

Cost Containment / Privatization In Florida's Prison System

Date	Event
October 2010	The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice released <u>Issue Brief 2011-213, Privatization of Prison Health Care Services</u> , which served as a foundation for future discussion of health care privatization within the Department of Corrections.
January 24, 2011	The Senate Budget Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations met jointly with the Senate Criminal Justice Committee to hear testimony on prison cost savings initiatives in other states.
February 8, 2011	The Senate Criminal Justice Committee heard testimony on prison privatization options from the Department of Management Services, OPPAGA, the Department of Corrections, the Reason Foundation, and private vendors.
February 15, 2011	The Senate Budget Committee heard testimony from the Department of Management Services, OPPAGA, the Department of Corrections, and the Reason Foundation on prison privatization.
February 22, 2011	The Senate Criminal Justice Committee heard further testimony from the Department of Corrections on prison privatization.
March 30, 2011	The House Appropriations Committee proposed proviso language in its Appropriations Bill (PCB APC 11-01) that privatized prison and probation services within Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. <i>(15 Yeas, 8 Nays)</i>
March 30, 2011	The House Appropriations Committee amended HB 5403 to include language that would privatize prison and probation services within Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. <i>(14 Yeas, 7 Nays)</i>
March 31, 2011	The Senate Budget Committee voted on Senate Proposed Bill 7084 (SPB 7084) with proviso language which included requiring privatization of the prisons in Region 4. <i>(16 Yeas, 4 Nays)</i>
April 1, 2011	The Senate Appropriations Bill (SB 2000) was introduced. The prison privatization proviso language in SB 2000 was identical to that in SPB 7084.
April 4-5, 2011	SB 2000 is considered by the Senate. Sen. Fasano offered a floor amendment (995051) to change proviso in SB 2000 shifting privatization from Region 4 to northwest Florida and an amendment (995053) to delete proviso to privatize Department of Corrections probation services in Region 4. Sen. Evers offered an amendment (955061) to Sen. Fasano's amendment (995051) that would restore language to privatize DOC prison operations in Region 4. All three amendments were withdrawn. As a result, no changes to the prison privatization proviso language were made.
April 7, 2011	Senate passed SB 2000. The prison privatization proviso language included in SB 2000, as introduced, was the same language included in SPB 7084. <i>See, SB 2000, 1st Eng. (33 Yeas, 6 Nays)</i>

April 11, 2011	The prison privatization issue was considered during the House/Senate subcommittee conference process.
April 27 & 29, 2011	The House/Senate Budget Conference Subcommittee continued to deliberate on the prison privatization issue.
April 30, 2011	The prison privatization issue was bumped to the House/Senate Conference Budget Committee (Chairs). Compromise language was agreed upon.
May 3, 2011	Conference Report on SB 2000 was placed on members' desks for the 72-hour public review period (Article III, section 19(d), Constitution).
May 6, 2011	Senate and House adopt Conference Report on SB 2000 and pass SB 2000. <i>See, SB 2000, 2nd Eng. (Senate: 31 Yeas, 8 Nays – 5/6/11; House: 79 Yeas, 39 Nays – 5/7/11)</i>