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Prison Relocation Proposal heads to State's Budget Committee

Rep. Steffen cites safety issues, facility deficiencies and taxpayer savings in budget request.

Madison—Today Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) submitted his proposal for the replacement of the current Green Bay Correctional Institution (GBCI) with a new facility with state of the art technology and design, and expanded services for mental health treatment and recidivism reduction programs.

“I have consistently stated that Green Bay Correctional Institution is the most dangerous place in Wisconsin,” stated Rep. Steffen. “The current infrastructure is failing and requires constant upkeep and renovations which has resulted in significant cost and overcrowding concerns. Investing in a new facility is not only the right thing to do for the staff and inmates currently at GBCI, it would allow for millions of dollars in taxpayer savings attributed to reduced capital and operational costs.”

Rep. Steffen’s proposal states that a replacement facility will be built in rural Brown County or an adjacent county and must be staffed by state employees. The new maximum security institution will be two separate facilities under one complex - the primary structure would hold 900 persons and the secondary structure would house 300 persons. The proposal specifies that the 300 bed facility must offer mental health treatment, education and vocational training with an emphasis on recidivism reduction.

“Expanding recidivism reduction programs, mental health treatment, and vocational and educational opportunities for inmates will be beneficial to us all,” stated Steffen. “Since many incarcerated individuals will be released back into our communities, we all benefit from a facility that is built specifically to offer evidence-based, proven recidivism-reduction services.”

The proposal now goes to the state’s Joint Finance Committee which will consider all motions relating to the 2019-21 budget. The committee is tasked with evaluating and making recommendations and then sending a budget bill to the full Legislature to be voted on and passed. Once passed, the bill will go to Governor Evers’ desk.

For more information please contact Representative Steffen. He can be reached at (608)266-5840 or by email at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov.

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