

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Pursuant to P.A. 200 of 2012

Section 304 – Employee Cost Saving Initiative Program – October 2013

Section 304 - The director of the department shall maintain a staff savings initiative program to invite employees to submit suggestions for savings costs for the department. The department shall report semiannually to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director on the suggestions submitted under this section, the implementation plan for those suggestions with which the department agrees, and an explanation of any disagreements with suggestions.

Below is the Department’s semiannual ‘Employee Cost Saving Initiative Program’ report for October 2013:

SUGGESTION	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN / REASON NOT IMPLEMENTED
<p>2012-04-003 - Prisoner Property - Personal v. State Issue - Here’s another way we can save money (similar to my previous suggestion about Level IV prisoners and state-issue fans). Extension cords are available for prisoners to purchase via the Prisoner Store List, yet we still supply them with extension cords. I don’t understand this. I have attached a picture of what was found during a unit shakedown. Maybe if they were paying for them, they might not destroy them so easily.</p>	<p>As a matter of policy, prisoners are not to be supplied with extension cords by the Department. Prisoners are only allowed to purchase no more than one extension cord through the Prisoner Store. MDOC PD 04.07.110, ‘State-issue Items and Cell/Room Furnishings’ addresses property supplied to prisoners by the Department, and extension cords are not mentioned. MDOC PD 04.02.130A, ‘Standardized Store List’, page 4 of 4, Paragraph V, lists extension cords as an available item to purchase (but no more than one).</p> <p>Cells at Alger Correctional Facility (LMF) have only one outlet. When LMF converted to a Level IV facility with double bunked prisoners, TV power cords for upper bunk prisoners could not reach the outlet. While the facility was never providing extension cords to all prisoners, for a brief time the facility was providing upper bunk (only) prisoners with an extension cord - if they needed one in order for their TV power cord to reach the outlet. This practice was discontinued completely after it was brought up as a matter of discussion. Prisoners were subsequently required to purchase their extension cord, and are only allowed a single cord.</p> <p>The only exception to this involves prisoners who have a heat related illness, are indigent, and are using their existing extension cord for their TV. In these instances, the LMF Prisoner Benefit Fund (PBF) provides the prisoner a SECOND extension cord to power their allowed cooling fan. The prisoner must sign a disbursement authorization when the cord is issued, and his account is charged if the extension cord is damaged when it is turned in.</p> <p>Agency Decision - Adopt: Implemented Previously or Since <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further/Ongoing Review <input type="checkbox"/></p>

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE - Pursuant to P.A. 200 of 2012, Section 304 – Employee Cost Saving Initiative Program – October 2013

SUGGESTION	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN / REASON NOT IMPLEMENTED
<p>2013-05-004 - Prisoner Wages, Prisoner Benefit Funds and Recreation - A facility Prisoner Benefit Fund (PBF) runs off of a 10% subsidy from the sale of Prisoner Store items, and from prisoner fundraisers. Prisoners - and only a few staff members, are appointed to the panel which spends the collected funds. The Recreation Department at the Lakeland Correctional Facility (LCF) has 77 prisoner workers on its prisoner payroll - at one facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight Pit Workers - Clean weight pits • Equipment Handlers - Pass out recreation equipment • Recreation Field Maintenance - Prepare fields for softball games, rake horseshoe pits • Recreation Officials - Officiate, holiday events, basketball, softball games • Recreation Porters - Clean day rooms or card rooms • Recreation Clerks - Takes photos during photo lines, official training, official scheduling <p>All of these things are benefiting the prisoner population but the payroll is paid for largely by the State. The PBF balance fluctuates from thousands of dollars to tens of thousands of dollars. Each year, they approve 6,000 dollars for chips and candy in a Christmas bag. Inmate payroll here is over \$1,500 a month (multiply this by 35 facilities).</p> <p>Reform in PBF and how funds are spent, and you will save the State of Michigan \$30,000 a month, or over \$300,000 a year.</p>	<p>Prisoner Benefit Funds (PBF) are primarily funded through prisoner store profits. Although it sounds like this facility's PBF many have more than adequate resources, many PBFs do not have excess funds and are challenged to meet those costs that must be paid for by the PBF. They would not be able to absorb the cost of prisoner wages.</p> <p>Agency Decision - Adopt: Implemented Previously or Since <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further/Ongoing Review <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Special Note: The boilerplate reporting requirement for Section 304 was NOT renewed for FY 2013-14.