Resolution

State of South Carolina)
)
County of Sumter)

Shifting State Prisoners To County Jails

WHEREAS, The S. C. House Ways and Means Committee will discuss a proposal to require counties to house all prisoners sentenced to one-year or less instead of the current 90 days or less; and

WHEREAS, The S. C. Department of Corrections (DOC) has estimated that this will shift approximately 2,500 prisoners to county jails and would cause a quantum leap in the jail costs – both capital and operating; overcrowding levels, and property tax rate increases in order to fund the expense of this mandate, and

WHEREAS, Sumter County is aware that South Carolina is one of only two states in this nation which local jails do not house inmates sentenced to one year or less; conversely, South Carolina is also one of only two states which the local government does not receive a per diem from the State for sentenced inmates, and

WHEREAS, It is Sumter County's belief that if this mandate is implemented Sumter County should receive not only per diem cost from the State to house State inmates, but also obtain funds to cover all capital and operational needs for implementing this State mandate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the members of Sumter County Council as good stewards of taxpayers' funds, do not support the concept of shifting State prisoners (sentenced to one year or less) to county jails without the proper funding. If this Bill is passed, it would cost Sumter County approximately $2,000,000 per year to operate and manage this mandate. Council members further hope that if this State mandate is passed onto local government, that the proper funding will be granted to carry out this requirement.

DONE AND RATIFIED, in Sumter County Council's regular meeting held this 25th day of February 2003.

SUMTER COUNTY COUNCIL

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Its: Chairman, Naomi D. Sanders

ATTEST:

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Its: Clerk, Mary W. Blanding