



HOUSE BILL WOULD PERMIT LEVEL V INMATES AT GEO-OWNED BALDWIN PRISON

There's a bill before the legislature that would allow GEO, a private prison company, to house Level V inmates at the shuttered Baldwin prison.

But GEO and MDOC say they have no plans to house any Level V Michigan prisoners there, although the bill as written would allow it.

GEO is advocating for the legislation because it wants to ship prisoners from other states to Baldwin. GEO still owns the prison, which used to house young offenders.

HB 4467 came up Thursday at a House Judiciary Committee hearing. GEO is in talks with two states that may want to send inmates to Baldwin, a company representative said at the hearing. About 600 inmates could be held there as soon as July, he said. The committee did not take a vote.

Detroit Free Press coverage of the plan included comments from MCO Vice President Andy Potter. Potter

said jobs that might require some use of force should be under the public's domain, not a private company.

MCO also fears HB 4467 could pave the way for prison privatization in the future. The legislature has pushed for prison privatization for several years, sometimes in creative ways. In 2012, lawmakers passed a bill that required MDOC to request bids for a private prison. The Department rejected all bids – none of them met a required 10 percent savings.

And last year, the Senate introduced a bill that would have artificially capped the state prison population at 38,000. Additional inmates would have been released or moved to a jail or private prison. The bill didn't pass.

MCO continues to ask lawmakers to insert language into HB 4467 that will disallow the use of private prisons to house any Michigan inmates.

We'll keep you updated.

FIGHTS KEEP MARQUETTE OFFICERS BUSY

Last week was a busy one at MBP. On April 14, there was a two-inmate fight that sent one prisoner to the hospital for a cut on the head. There was another two-inmate fight later that day. Both fights involved Level V inmates.

There were at least three fights the next day. The first was on the Level V yard and involved a weapon. That afternoon, there was a five-prisoner fight in the Level I O-dorm. One person had to go to the emergency room for stitches. Then in the evening, there was a one-on-one assault. Both

inmates are Level I.

And this week, a combative prisoner spit at and attempted to bite an officer while in transport to an emergency room. The inmate was being taken to a hospital after a suicide attempt.

Let MCO know what's going on at your facility. You can fill out the critical incident form on our website or email mail@mco-seiu.org. Your name will not be shared outside of MCO. MCO verifies all reports with other members before publishing.

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IN MEMORIAM: CO BRAGIEL

SLF Officer Scott Bragiel, 43, passed away April 19.

Bragiel had been an officer since 2001. He suffered a heart attack, officers tell MCO. A funeral service was held Thursday.

Please keep his survivors in your thoughts. Rest in peace, Officer Bragiel.

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