



GEO PRIVATE PRISON BILL EKES OUT A WIN IN THE HOUSE

H.B. 4467 passed out of the House of Representatives Thursday by a 57-53 vote.

Remember, this is the bill that would allow GEO, a private prison company, to house Level V and higher inmates at the vacant Baldwin prison. GEO owns the facility.

The Detroit Free Press reported: "All Democrats voted against the bill and were joined by Republicans John Bizon of Battle Creek, Tom Hooker of Byron Center, Martin Howrylak

of Troy, Holly Hughes of White River Township, Lisa Posthumus Lyons of Alto, and Henry Vaupel of Handy Township."

Rep. Posthumus Lyons introduced an amendment Tuesday that would have disallowed the Michigan Department of Corrections from sending Level V inmates to private prison. The amendment was unsuccessful.

Go to mco-seiu.org to see a complete list of how representatives voted.

GEO claims they have no plans to house Michigan inmates. But MCO is opposed to this bill because it seems like yet another back-door attempt to privatize Michigan prisons. Our legislature has taken some creative approaches to privatize prisons after conventional methods – like deciding to privatize only if it's cost-effective – haven't worked out.

Next, the H.B. 4467 will be assigned to a Senate committee.

We'll keep you updated.

AROUND THE STATE: FOOD ISSUES AND AN ASSAULT

IBC inmates refused to leave the chow hall when the kitchen ran out of waffles Saturday morning, an officer said.

About 80 prisoners in line were offered peanut butter and jelly sandwiches instead. Officers were able to persuade many of them to accept the substitute. About 25 inmates who wouldn't eat the substitute stood together and marched out of the chow hall, the officer said.

The prisoners involved are Level II.

An Aramark worker was stop ordered Tuesday for overfamiliarity, an SLF officer said.

Further details weren't available.

There were seven assaults in April at SRF that resulted in serious injury to prisoners.

Recent events at SRF:

5/6 - Staff assault. Also a four-inmate fight with a weapon.

5/5 - Prisoner-on-prisoner stabbing.

CENTRAL MET THURSDAY

The MCO Central Committee met Thursday in Lansing. Chapter leaders from around the state met and discussed MCO's strategic goals for future growth and member involvement. Look for a detailed story in the next MCO Report.

SENIORITY TRANSFER NOTICE

Officers may apply for seniority-based transfers during the month of May.

MDOC handles seniority-based transfers. See your personnel office and Article 15, Part D of your contract for more information.

GREY DRAGONS RIDE FOR MCO CRISIS FUND

Mark your calendar now for the Grey Dragons MCO Crisis Run for the Fund on Saturday, Sept. 26.

The Grey Dragons - Manistee chapter will meet at 10 a.m. at the Shell Gas Station at US 10 and M37 in Baldwin. They'll ride to Cops and Doughnuts in Clare.

Other Grey Dragons groups or

solo riders are invited to meet them at the gas station or in Clare. From Cops and Doughnuts, the group will go on another ride.

Participants are asked to make a donation to the MCO Crisis Fund, which helps members facing a catastrophe.

MICHIGAN CORRECTIONS ORGANIZATION
SEIU LOCAL 526M
421 W. KALAMAZOO
LANSING, MI 48933
517.485.3310
800.451.4878
WWW.MCO-SEIU.ORG
MAIL@MCO-SEIU.ORG