



MCO SEEKS EXCLUSION FROM EMPLOYEE REPORTING BILL; LEGISLATURE PASSES CRIMINAL REFORM PACKAGE

This week, the House Oversight Committee took up House Bill 4301, a bill that would require each executive branch department to electronically post a list of all employees to the state's website. The bill would also require departments to provide individual employee names, position title, classified or non-classified civil service distinction, and salary information.

MCO reached out to nearly every member of the committee (Republican and Democrat) to discuss the safety and security implications of this legislation and was successful in getting legislators to consider and pass a substitute that would give MDOC and other departments the ability to remove their employees from any such registry. The substitute states:

"THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT, AND BUDGET SHALL NOT POST AN EMPLOYEE'S INFORMATION... IF IT DETERMINES, BASED ON A REQUEST MADE BY THE EMPLOYEE'S DEPARTMENT, THAT DOING SO WOULD ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF THE EMPLOYEE. A REQUEST MADE BY A DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MUST INCLUDE SUFFICIENT

INFORMATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT, AND BUDGET TO MAKE A DETERMINATION."

It is MCO's position that exposing the name of any CO or FSA could leave employees and their families vulnerable to attacks by those wishing to do harm, especially in areas where a simple Google search can divulge the address and contact information of the employee. In addition, putting specific name, worksite and salary information could open employees to identity theft and other fraudulent behavior.

We are pleased that legislators have provided a means to remove employees from the registry. MCO will be reaching out to the directors of MDOC and DHHS to formally request they file the proper exemption paperwork, if the bills are passed.

MCO will continue to monitor these bills as they move forward and will update members on any new progress or developments via the KYI.

The state House and Senate have passed a package of criminal justice reform bills.

The bills call for detailed reporting to the legislature on the number of inmates



IN MEMORIAM: CO VANSUMEREN

Highly-respected, long-serving Cotton member James VanSumeren has passed away.

VanSumeren started with the MDOC in 1982. He had just retired last week.

Officers say VanSumeren was always polished and professional. He wore a tie every day of his career. He was an exemplary officer, and many COs looked up to him.

Rest in peace, CO VanSumeren.

who have reached their earliest release date but haven't been paroled; limiting incarceration time for technical probation violations; adopting a system of sanctions for parole violations; housing inmates 18-22 years old together with inmates of the same age range; and more. Presumptive parole was not included in the package of approved bills.

Look up the bills or read an analysis of them at legislature.mi.gov.

These bills now await Gov. Rick Snyder's signature.

MCO will continue to monitor bills and engage legislators. We won't stop advocating, in the state capitol and elsewhere, for corrections officers.

ALGER CORRECTIONS OFFICERS RESPOND TO MULTIPLE INMATE FIGHTS

Several fights have broken out at Alger over the last week.

An officer had to fire a warning shot to end a five-inmate brawl in a commons area March 3. The prisoners, all from the Level IV Pine unit, were sent to seg.

Earlier in the day, there was a one-

on-one prisoner fight in the Pine unit dayroom. A piece of metal was found on one of the inmates after the clash.

Administrators placed the prison on a modified movement plan with no big yards.

Then on Sunday, there was a two-inmate fight in the Level II Spruce unit.

There was a two-prisoner fight in the Level IV Maple unit the next day. Both inmates were sent to seg.

The facility was back to normal operations Monday.

At least some of the fighting was gang-related, officers said.

Stay safe.