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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH  
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 492

February 1, 2007

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Civil Justice

February 22, 2007

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections

March 7, 2007

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to public safety; establishing a short-term offender advisory task force;  
1.3 requiring a report that includes task force recommendations on short-term  
1.4 offender program and reimbursing counties.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **SHORT-TERM OFFENDER ADVISORY TASK FORCE.**

1.7 (a) An advisory task force is established to evaluate the use and effectiveness  
1.8 of the short-term offender program and identify gaps in the current system relating to  
1.9 jail programming and reentry. The task force shall recommend appropriate levels of  
1.10 reimbursement to counties for housing short-term offenders in county and regional jails,  
1.11 and propose alternatives to the current system including, but not limited to, a regional  
1.12 jail structure.

1.13 (b) The commissioner of corrections shall cochair the committee with a designee  
1.14 of the Minnesota Sheriffs Association and convene the first meeting of the advisory task  
1.15 force that is composed of the following representatives: three members to represent  
1.16 the Department of Corrections' institutions division, community services division, and  
1.17 offender reception center appointed by the commissioner; two sheriffs or administrators  
1.18 who operate jails or workhouses that house short-term offenders appointed by the  
1.19 Minnesota Sheriffs Association in consultation with the Association of Minnesota  
1.20 Counties; two county administrators and two county board members appointed by the  
1.21 Association of Minnesota Counties; two county attorneys appointed by the Minnesota  
1.22 County Attorneys Association; two public defenders appointed by the State Board of  
1.23 Public Defense; and two probation officers jointly appointed by the Minnesota Corrections  
1.24 Association and the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act counties, at

2.1 least one of whom must be from a Community Corrections Act county. The associations  
2.2 must seek geographical diversity among task force members so that both metropolitan and  
2.3 out-state interests are represented. Task force members may not receive compensation  
2.4 but may receive reimbursement for expenses related to serving on the task force. Except  
2.5 as provided in this section, task force members' terms and other task force matters are  
2.6 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059.

2.7 (c) The task force must submit by February 1, 2009, a written report to the chairs of  
2.8 the public safety finance and policy committees in the house of representatives and senate  
2.9 that includes the task force recommendations for managing and reforming the short-term  
2.10 offender program and reimbursing counties for housing short-term offenders.

2.11 (d) Upon request, the commissioner of corrections must provide the task force  
2.12 with technical and other support services. The commissioner must use funds from the  
2.13 department's current operating budget to cover any costs the commissioner incurs in  
2.14 providing services to the task force.

2.15 (e) The task force expires on June 30, 2009.

2.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.