



New Hampshire State Senate ***NEWS RELEASE***

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Morse: Governor wants to go even further with Correction reforms

Senate supports plan to privatize entire department, calls on governor to share specifics

(Concord) Senate Finance Chairman Chuck Morse, R-Salem, released the following statement today regarding Governor John Lynch's plan to privatize the state's entire Corrections Department:

"The Senate Finance Committee has been working diligently to find real savings in the budget. One idea has been to privatize sections of our Corrections Department by giving the Commissioner the authority to send up to 600 inmates from the Concord prison to other facilities. To do this, we re-committed HB 635 to Senate Finance in order for it to be amended and have the benefit of a public hearing this coming Thursday.

"However, it's come to my attention that Governor Lynch wants to go even further with reforms and has a plan to privatize the entire Corrections Department. It's also my understanding that a Request for Proposal (RFP) is scheduled to go out in June which will enable the state to accept bids on the governor's plan.

"The Senate supports this reform but we're also expecting a full vetting of the issue. Today, I'm calling upon the governor to share the specifics of his proposal with us now, instead of waiting until June. The Corrections Department is second only to Health and Human Services in the amount of scrutiny it receives during budget deliberations. As a result, the governor's plan to reform the department needs to be included in the overall budget process and not handled separately."

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