

FY '23

Overview of Program and Special Equipment Fund



House Corrections Subcommittee

February 23, 2022

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Prisoner Phone Service Overview

- The MDOC contracts for a specialized prisoner phone service that includes security and intelligence functions that differ from normal public phone services.
- As of October 26, 2021, the price of prisoner phone calls decreased from \$0.16 per minute to \$0.14.
- Prior to October 2018, prisoner phone calls cost between \$0.20 and \$0.25 per minute.
- There are roughly 15 million minutes of phone calls placed from MDOC facilities each month, or 180 million minutes per year.
- In CY '21, just over \$28m was paid for prisoner phone calls. The Program and Special Equipment Fund received \$11m of this revenue (39%).



Program and Special Equipment Fund

- Restricted fund that receives \$11m per year from the MDOC's phone contractor.
- Fund is currently limited by boilerplate to being used for prisoner programming/education, as well as certain MDOC equipment expenses.
- Due to the past accumulation of fund balances, the last 3 state budgets have appropriated at least \$14m each year from this fund for prisoner education/programming.
- The fund is now primarily used to support prisoner education costs that were supported with GF/GP prior to FY '16 when the use of this fund was extended to prisoner programming.



MDOC Education Efforts

- The Department is requesting \$14.8m in GF/GP to maintain prisoner programming and education activities at current levels.
- If this GF/GP is not appropriated, it would result in the elimination of roughly 35% of the MDOC's prisoner education programs.
- This would impact statutorily required academic programs and potentially eliminate Career and Technical Education programs including those in the Vocational Villages, Vital Documents effort, and support for Post-Secondary Programs.