

4-16-98 DoPass

FILED APR 13 1998

5-4-98 adopted

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY JENSEN AND FLYNN

A Senate Resolution requesting that the Legislative Council authorize an interim study of statewide jail space needs.

WHEREAS, there are approximately 2,800 county jail beds located in 92 counties in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, 70 percent of Iowa jails are 50 years old or older; and

WHEREAS, 70 percent of Iowa jails are structurally inadequate and do not meet current jail design standards; and

WHEREAS, 70 percent of Iowa jails are not designed to house the inmate populations that currently occupy those jails, thereby causing a risk to prisoners and jail staff; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-quarter of Iowa's jails are not staffed by full-time jailers; and

WHEREAS, a demonstrated shortage of county jail space exists, including 15 Iowa jails which house inmate populations which exceed rated capacity on a daily basis, 14 jails which operate at an occupancy rate of one bed less than rated capacity on a daily basis, and 63 jails which operate at an average occupancy rate of 85 percent of rated capacity on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, legislation initiated in recent years could potentially increase the number of persons sentenced to confinement in county jails; and

WHEREAS, individual counties are seeking solutions

S.R. 120

1 to jail space shortages and are considering individual
2 jail studies; NOW THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Legislative
4 Council be requested to establish a legislative
5 interim study committee to conduct a comprehensive,
6 statewide study of jail space needs in Iowa,
7 including, but not limited to, an assessment of
8 current and future needs for jail space throughout the
9 state.

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