



OPPOSE

Part D of S 8305/A 8805 Public Protection and General Government Executive Budget Bill

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) opposes this section of the executive budget proposal.

AFSCME Local 2951 (Council 82) represents nearly 500 State Corrections Lieutenant and Mental Health Supervisors in 43 State Correctional facilities across New York. These members work in challenging conditions yet continue to carry out their essential duties because they are dedicated to their profession and the communities they serve.

The above-referenced section of the executive budget proposal would authorize the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to close up to five correctional facilities with only 90 days' notice, despite the statutory requirement to provide one year's notice before a closure can begin. This legislation would impact thousands of correctional employees and their families, forcing them to choose between parting with their neighborhoods or leaving a career they have invested in. Furthermore, this proposal would significantly affect the community at large, along with these facilities' incarcerated populations and their families.

The current standard of one year's notice before a closure allows for better preparedness and a stable transition for incarcerated individuals and their families, the employees, and the local population. In addition, it provides ample time for alternative uses or development ideas to be generated so there is a quick solution for these communities and the state can minimize negative consequences from a closure. Reducing the notice period to 90 days means a more burdensome and disorderly experience for everyone affected, along with the local economies.

The one-year requirement is essential in minimizing harm to employees, incarcerated individuals, and communities when a correctional facility closes.

On behalf of the nearly 400,000 public and non-profit employees that AFSCME represents in New York state, including thousands of law enforcement members, we strongly OPPOSE this proposal.