

ORIGINAL: 2544  
Thomas C. Ceraso  
Commissioner

Tom Balya  
Chairman

Phil Light  
Commissioner

# Westmoreland County Pennsylvania



Office of the  
Westmoreland County  
Commissioners

Courthouse Square, Suite 101  
2 North Main Street  
Greensburg, PA 15601-2494

Phone: (724) 830-3106  
(800) 442-6926  
FAX (724) 830-3029  
TDD (724) 830-3802

July 19, 2006

David B. Farney, Assistant Counsel  
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections  
55 Utley Drive  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Dear Mr. Farney:

On behalf of the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, I write in opposition to recent proposed changes to county prison regulations. The Board asks that the Department of Corrections withdrawal the regulations and begin a new effort to gather input from county commissioners and county prison administrators so that a proposal acceptable to countics can be developed. Moreover, we ask that the Legislature, specifically the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, hold hearings on this issue.

We oppose the changes as proposed because the new regulations would add costly new standards that county prisons would be mandated to follow. The proposed regulations would likely require county prisons to hire more staff to meet mandates such as a staffing security analysis. The standards also would add additional requirements such as emergency power backup systems.

The proposed regulations would impose standards that are appropriate for state facilities, but not necessarily for county inmates. The regulations would require treatment services such as education, social services, alcohol treatment and drug counseling. This takes away local decision-making power, and funding from the state is not provided.

The regulatory change would also declassify non-compliant county jails. However, the regulation does not define what declassification is, how the process would work, or establish a process that would allow counties to appeal the decision to declassify. Declassified jails would not be able to accept inmates, but the regulation does not specify what would be done with inmates from a declassified facility. Will counties

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

2006 JUL 27 PM 2:37

RECEIVED

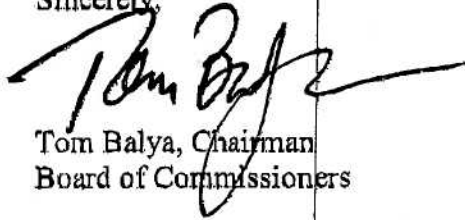
WESTMORELAND COUNTY COMMISSIONER 7 3111732211 NO. 448 1983

be forced to pay for housing of inmates at other facilities or will state facilities accept them?

All of the factors outlined above reflect an effort by the state to force counties to provide certain services without providing any funding to execute these mandates, undermining the statutory authority of county prison boards and the funding authority of the county commissioners.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Tom Balya, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

CC: Commissioners Tom Ceraso and Phil Light  
Westmoreland County Legislative Delegation  
Warden John Walton, Westmoreland County Prison

Thomas C. Ceraso  
Commissioner

Tom Balya  
Chairman

Phil Light  
Commissioner

# Westmoreland County Pennsylvania



Office of the  
Westmoreland County  
Commissioners

Courthouse Square, Suite 101  
2 North Main Street  
Greensburg, PA 15601-2494

Phone: (724) 830-3106  
(800) 442-6926  
FAX (724) 830-3029  
TDD (724) 830-3802

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR THE EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MESSAGE TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. YOUR POSTAGE WILL BE REIMBURSED. THANK YOU.

TO:

NAME: DAVID FARWEY FAX# ( ) 717-975-2217

FIRM Dept. of Corrections CONFIRMATION # ( )

---

FROM:

NAME: TOM BALYA TELEPHONE # (724) 830-3100

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER: 3

Additional Comments or Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

---



---

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THE DESIGNATED NUMBER OF PAGES, OR IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY PROBLEM WITH THE TRANSMISSION OF THIS DOCUMENT, PLEASE CALL OUR SECRETARY AT (724) 830-3106 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.