

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

Follow-Up to Questions from January 16, 2014 Meeting

1. Can prisoners use private insurance to cover their health care costs?

Staff attorneys are not aware of any State or federal law prohibiting the use of private insurance for prisoners. However, it appears that most employer plans and individual insurance companies drop coverage when someone is incarcerated.

The State Health Plan (SHP) does continue to cover State employee retirees who are incarcerated, as well as dependents who remain on an employee's plan. (Presumably, State employees who are incarcerated would lose their job and subsequently, their coverage.) Coverage is only provided for services outside a DPS facility. In these cases, the SHP would be the primary insurer and DPS would be the secondary insurer. The usual SHP eligibility rules would continue to apply, so if you were only eligible because you were a State employee and you lose your State job when convicted then you would no longer be eligible (except possibly for COBRA coverage).

2. Would additional inmate medical costs be covered if the State had expanded Medicaid coverage?

Additional inmates would have been eligible for coverage if the State had expanded Medicaid. Staff is still working with HHS to provide an estimate of the amount.

3. What is the status of the sheriffs' arrangement with local hospitals to pay the same rate the State is paying?

According to the Association of County Commissioners, they are still working out the logistics. A major impediment is working out the difficulty of having each county's information technology system interact with the Division of Social Services system.

4. How many prisoners have had compassionate/medical leave since the policy was enacted?

G.S. 15A-1369 directs the Department of Public Safety and the Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission to provide for the medical release of inmates who are permanently and totally disabled, terminally ill, or geriatric. The legislation requires each case being carefully and comprehensively evaluated by the Department as well as the Parole and Post-Release Supervision Commission.

Since 2008, 93 inmates have been considered for Medical Release:

- 10 Denied
- 54 Released
- 28 Died
- 1 Pending

5. Has NEOGOV increased the number of applications received for State jobs?

NEOGOVS is an applicant tracking system. Previously, positions were posted through PMJOBS, which was only an electronic bulletin board and did not have any applicant tracking or interaction. The application process was entirely paper. According to the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR), some agencies may have historical data regarding their recruitment efforts, but there were not mandated standards, so it would vary from agency to agency. OSHR believes that NEOGOV has increased the number of applicants substantially, but there is no historical data to back this up.

Has NEOGOV changed the demographics of applicants? Are more people from other states applying?

OSHR is not currently tracking residency characteristics of applicants but plans to add this in the next year.

Has the State seen any other shifts in application trends since NEOGOV implementation?

According to OSHR, NEOGOV has opened up State employment to a wider applicant pool. This is not NEOGOV specific, as going to any applicant tracking system (ATS) would accomplish this. Moving from paper to an ATS brings the State in line with private employers and puts vacancies into electronic pools (i.e. professional associations and occupational specific job boards that pull vacancy announcements from sites) and builds a better database of applicant skills that can be mined for future positions.