

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety category consists of appropriations for the Department of Correction as well as law enforcement, regulatory, and licensing agencies. Public Safety comprises approximately 5.6 percent of all recommended appropriations and 9.7 percent of the recommended General Fund appropriations. A number of the agencies in the Public Safety category rely on appropriations from dedicated funds; in fact, Public Safety comprises approximately 6.2 percent of all recommended dedicated fund appropriations. Although several agencies rely heavily on federal funds, only a small percentage of total recommended federal fund appropriations are in the Public Safety category.

Department of Correction

The Department of Correction dominates the Public Safety category; it comprises approximately 60.8 percent of all recommended Public Safety operating appropriations.

The Department of Correction's mission is to protect the public by incarcerating offenders and to prepare virtually all offenders for community release in the most cost-effective manner. This mission is accomplished while the Department complies with all constitutional, legislative, judicial, and executive mandates, and while it facilitates community services development to decrease commitments of adults and juveniles. These community services include state funding for matching local funding for the community corrections program and funding for a portion of the costs of incarcerating misdemeanants in the local community.

The Department of Correction forecasts an average population growth rate of 2.7 percent for adult male offenders and a 3.8 percent growth rate for adult females during the 2003-05 biennium. To support this anticipated growth rate, the recommendations include a change in funds for the Department of Correction in the following major areas:

- \$38.3 million increase for the biennium to fund new bed spaces coming on-line at the Miami, New Castle, Rockville and the Indianapolis Juvenile facility;
- \$12 million increase to annualize current operational costs at Miami and New Castle;
- \$20 million increase in medical services;
- \$5.2 million decrease in the need for juvenile contract beds.

The recommendations add a total of \$68.1 million to Department of Correction's base budget for the biennium.

Indiana State Police

The Indiana State Police comprise approximately 18.0 percent of Public Safety's total recommended appropriations. The State Police's mission is to preserve and protect human life, enforce state and federal laws, identify and suppress criminal activity, monitor and control vehicle roadway traffic, and create a safe environment for the people of the state.

The Indiana State Police budget for the 2003-05 biennium will focus on providing efficient and effective service. Additional funds have been recommended to support a recruit school in each fiscal year of the biennium. The State Police recommendations include the transfer of 11 security officer positions and funding support from the Indiana War Memorial Commission to the State Police, Government Facilities Unit. For each year of the biennium \$35 million in funding from the State Highway Fund will be used to fund the Indiana State Police.

Other Public Safety

Other agencies in the Public Safety budget include the Adjutant General, the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the Board of Animal Health, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Civil Rights Commission, the Criminal Justice Institute, the Department of Financial Institutions, the Health Professions Bureau, the Professional Licensing Agency, the Law Enforcement Training Academy, the State Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Fire and Building Services, the Public Safety Training Institute, the Department of Labor, the Department of Insurance, the Utility Regulatory Commission, the Utility Consumer Counselor, the Workers' Compensation Board, and the Integrated Public Safety Commission.

Current revenue sources dedicated to the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission are sufficient to meet the recommended appropriation level. As a result, the recommendations do not contain a General Fund appropriation for the Commission during this biennium.

The Health Professions Bureau and the Professional Licensing Agency will be merged as a result of this budget recommendation.