

ADCRR's Concerns with HCR 2060

While there remains much uncertainty about the ways in which HCR 2060 will impact state agencies, the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry (ADCRR) has done a preliminary review and expects the latest version of the bill to have significant operational and fiscal impacts to the agency.

It is important to note, that in addition to the projected incarceration costs to ADCRR, the duplication of federal immigration enforcement proposed in HCR 2060 will result in additional costs outside of ADCRR's purview. Specifically, this measure adds financial burdens on local agencies for:

- Local law enforcements costs;
- Court administration costs;
- Criminal justice practitioners for cost related to prosecuting and defense; and
- Transportation to detention facilities costs.

ADCRR's primary concerns are noted below.

OPERATIONAL CONCERNS

Should the ballot measure take effect, the Department of Public Safety has estimated that the prison system could see an annual influx of more than 1,500 people in their custody.

If this estimate holds true, the ADCRR finds that within one year of the measure's implementation, the ADCRR will see notable strains to day to day prison operations across an already taxed system. These operational challenges include:

- Appropriately classifying these individuals, including individuals who may not yet be sentenced by a Court, and finding bed space to match the individual risk and need requirements of this many people within a system that has a shortage of bed space;
 - This shortage of bed space is compounded by the requirements of the Jensen V. Thornell injunction;
- Unequivocally all of Arizona's prisons will require more staff should this measure go into effect. While the prison system at large is seeing slight improvements in staffing levels, which are attributed to a strident focus on recruitment and retention, these measures to improve staffing cannot hold pace with the scale of staffing that would be required should HCR 2060 take effect.
 - ADCRR's current staffing levels will not allow for the utilization of any existing, vacant prison beds (i.e., beds that are in the system but not currently in use).
 - The staffing challenges throughout the state's prison system will pose difficulties to ADCRR's ability to maintain safe and secure prisons.
- The influx of people brings with it challenges in managing the healthcare needs (and costs, noted below) along with the necessary continuity of care services. The ADCRR is

already seeing an increased need for prison healthcare services as those sentenced to state custody have an increasing acuity of healthcare needs.

FISCAL CONCERNS

Overall, taking into account ADCRR forecasted growth for fiscal years 25-29, plus the estimated growth associated with HCR 2060, the ADCRR will be at 100% of total operating capacity in approximately June 2027, with a projected population reaching over 43,000 inmates, should HCR 2060 go into effect. Currently, ADCRR does not have the staffing resources to support this growth.

Before current operating capacity is reached, ADCRR must begin examining capital-intensive expansion projects to manage the drastic population increase. These potential projects are not contemplated in the agency analysis of fiscal impacts.

By FY2029, the preliminary costs expected to accrue to ADCRR will total nearly \$252 million, with ongoing expenses nearing \$66 million per year after.

COST ESTIMATE BREAKDOWN:

	Operating Costs	Increased Food	Increased Healthcare	Recruitment & Retention Costs	Grand Total
FY20205	\$14,602,100.00	\$68,000.00	\$5,665,100.00	\$1,820,000.00	\$22,155,200.00
FY2026	\$26,999,500.00	\$136,000.00	\$15,291,800.00	\$1,820,000.00	\$44,247,300.00
FY2027	\$33,198,200.00	\$136,000.00	\$21,490,500.00	\$1,820,000.00	\$56,644,700.00
FY2028	\$36,351,500.00	\$136,000.00	\$24,611,700.00	\$1,820,000.00	\$62,919,200.00
FY2029	\$37,874,200.00	\$136,000.00	\$26,166,500.00	\$1,820,000.00	\$65,996,700.00
	\$149,025,500.00	\$612,000.00	\$93,225,600.00	\$9,100,000.00	\$251,963,100.00

- By June 2027, ADCRR anticipates to be at 100% of total **operating capacity** for males with a projected population over 39,000 male inmates;
- By June 2028, the ADCRR anticipates to be at 100% of total **operating capacity** for women only with a projected population near 4,300 women inmates;

By 2027, ADCRR will be out of usable prison beds, which includes funded private prison beds, and would need to explore building a prison for further growth.

- With forecasted growth, plus growth associated with HCR2060, the overall population would reach 100% **staffed capacity** in September 2026;
 - For the women's population, ADCRR will reach 100% **staffed capacity** in May 2025;

- For the men's population, ADCRR will reach 100% staffed capacity in February 2027

UNCERTAINTY CREATES CHALLENGES

The impacts of HCR 2060 are numerous and will have untold impacts across state and local agencies for many years to come. In the best of situations, a policy change of this magnitude would receive sober and thorough consideration from lawmakers and stakeholders through the normal legislative process. This ballot measure poses untold, but significant, operational and fiscal challenges to the myriad of organizations affected, with potential threats to public safety and the prison system's continuing operations.