Overview

This bill appropriates money for grants for the probation caseload reduction program, provides how funds may be used, and prevents use of funds to supplant existing probation officer positions or correctional services or programs.

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Corrections appropriation.

Subd. 1. Commissioner of Corrections. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of corrections for increased grants to counties that deliver correctional services.

Subd. 2. Probation officer caseload reduction. Specifies that the money appropriated under subdivision 1 is intended to reduce state and county probation officer caseload and workload overcrowding and to increase supervision of individuals sentenced to probation at the county level. Allows the increased supervision to be accomplished through a variety of methods, including:

- innovative technology services;
- prevention and diversion programs;
- intergovernmental cooperation agreements between local governments and appropriate community resources; and
- traditional probation program services.

Subd. 3. Appropriation added to base level 1997. Provides that the funds appropriated in subdivision 1 shall be added to the base level for probation office workload reduction.

Subd. 4. County reimbursement. Provides counties that deliver correctional services under section 244.19 (county probation officer counties) and that qualify for new probation officers under this program shall receive full reimbursement for the officers’ benefits and support, up to $70,000 annually. Specifies that positions funded by this appropriation may not supplant existing services.
Subd. 5. Distribution of funds. Requires the commissioner to distribute the money appropriated under subdivision 1 according to the community corrections aid formula. Prohibits use of these appropriations to supplant existing state or county probation officer positions or existing correctional services or programs.