



**Massachusetts
Municipal
Association**

60 Temple Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02111 - (617) 426-7272
CAMBRIDGE MA.

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April 30, 1986

**** ALERT ON COUNTY CORRECTIONS ****

Dear Local Official,

There have been two major indications recently that the state intends to take over the county correctional system as part of the FY87 state budget.

The House version of the budget, which was passed by the House a few weeks ago and sent on to the Senate, contains a reserve of \$35 million for "county correction cost assumption." However, there was no accompanying line item within the budget itself and no legislative language to detail such a takeover.

Last week the Governor announced, as part of his proposal for expending the state's \$575 million surplus, that he was supporting this reserve and the concept of a takeover, indicating that he assumed it would be a two-year phase in. There was no additional funding allocated by the Governor for this purpose in his proposal. We were disappointed that the Governor's proposal did not announce added local aid that would have brought the state closer to a real 40% amount for local governments.

In addition, the House membership in floor debate on its budget, adopted language which essentially says that if the state assumes any county correctional costs an equivalent decrease will be made in county assessments on local budgets, releasing these amounts for discretionary use at the local level.

It is not yet clear what the Senate position will be on this issue. In past years there had been objection in the Senate to having the state assume county correctional responsibilities. However, the Senate is presently working on its version of the state budget and in the next few weeks some further indications of intention may well become clear.

The Municipal Association will continue to keep you fully informed on this issue as it takes shape.

Sincerely,

James W. Segel
Executive Director

JWS/rr

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Comm. from James Segel, Exec. Dir., Mass.
Municipal Assoc. Re: indications that the
State intends to take over the County cor-
rectional system as part of the FY87 State
budget.

In City Council,

May 12, 1986

Placed in file