

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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The Conference Committee on HB 5403E offered the following:

**Conference Committee Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

**Section 1. Section 944.751, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

944.751 Correctional facilities capital improvement.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes the critical fixed capital outlay needs of the department.

Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to provide funding through cash payments or proceeds of bonds distributed under this section to address these needs.

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13       (2) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING.—Beginning in the 2026-  
14 2027 fiscal year and each fiscal year through 2066-2067, the  
15 Legislature shall appropriate \$50 million in recurring funds  
16 from the General Revenue Fund to the department to develop and  
17 implement a capital improvement plan for new and existing  
18 correctional facilities.

19       (3) USE OF FUNDS.—From the specific amount appropriated  
20 for capital improvement projects each fiscal year, the  
21 department must use the funds in the following order of  
22 priority:

23       (a) First, for the payment of debt service or funding of  
24 debt service reserve funds, rebate obligations, or other amounts  
25 payable with respect to bonds issued pursuant to this section.

26       (b) Second, to address the department's critical facility  
27 needs, including, but not limited to, the construction of new  
28 facilities or the maintenance and repair of existing facilities  
29 of the department as appropriated in the General Appropriations  
30 Act.

31       (4) NEW CORRECTIONAL HOSPITAL UNIT.—Beginning on July 1,  
32 2026, the department shall begin the planning and design phase  
33 for the construction of one new 600-bed correctional hospital  
34 unit that will include mental health services. The department  
35 shall provide preference to the use or purchase of existing  
36 state or locally owned land prior to the consideration of  
37 privately owned land for site acquisition. The site must be

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38 capable of colocation with any prospective major correctional  
39 institution construction. The site must be located where the  
40 labor market, potential labor pool, and other factors such as  
41 commute distance and cost of living are favorable to provide a  
42 sufficient workforce for staffing the facility. If state or  
43 locally owned land is not available, funds may be used for  
44 purchase of land.

45 (5) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.—

46 (a) The department shall include recommendations for the  
47 use of funds in its annual legislative budget request.

48 (b) For any project costing more than \$5 million, the  
49 department shall contract with a construction management entity  
50 that will be responsible for scheduling and coordinating both  
51 the design and construction phases of the project.

52 (c) Upon the completion of construction of any new  
53 correctional institutions, the department shall submit a  
54 recommendation to the Legislature to provide options for the  
55 closure of existing facilities that are perpetually understaffed  
56 or continue to present excessive repair and renovation costs.

57 (6) BONDING AUTHORITY.—

58 (a) The Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of  
59 Administration is authorized to issue bonds to finance the cost  
60 of constructing a new correctional facility. Bonds shall not be  
61 issued for maintenance or repair of existing facilities.

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62 (b) Bonds issued pursuant to this subsection are payable  
63 from the funds appropriated and transferred pursuant to this  
64 section.

65 (c) The department shall request that the Division of Bond  
66 Finance issue bonds authorized by this section in accordance  
67 with the General Appropriations Act. The Division of Bond  
68 Finance shall issue such bonds pursuant to the State Bond Act.

69 (d) Except for bonds issued to refund previously issued  
70 bonds, a series of bonds may not be issued pursuant to this  
71 section unless such bonds are approved and the debt service for  
72 the remainder of the fiscal year in which the bonds are issued  
73 is specifically appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

74 (7) FINANCING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.—To ensure that the  
75 funds, including any bond proceeds, are spent in an efficient  
76 and responsible manner, a financing oversight committee is  
77 created.

78 (a) The committee must include a representative from the  
79 Senate, the House of Representatives, the Office of Policy and  
80 Budget in the Executive Office of the Governor, the department,  
81 and the Division of Bond Finance.

82 (b) The committee shall recommend the most cost-beneficial  
83 and effective financing methods to meet the needs of the  
84 department for any new capital facility construction.

85 **Section 2.** Notwithstanding s. 2, chapter 2025-207, Laws of  
86 Florida, beginning in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the Chief

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87 Financial Officer shall transfer \$150 million from the General  
88 Revenue Fund on July 1 each fiscal year to the State Board of  
89 Administration for the Debt Reduction Program pursuant to s.  
90 215.98, Florida Statutes. Any unexpended funds shall revert on  
91 June 30 of each fiscal year to the General Revenue Fund.

92 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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95 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

96 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

97 A bill to be entitled

98 An act relating to correctional facilities financing  
99 and capital improvements; creating s. 944.751, F.S.;  
100 providing legislative intent; providing an  
101 appropriation to the Department of Corrections;  
102 requiring appropriated funds to be used in a certain  
103 manner; requiring the department to begin the planning  
104 and design phase for the construction of certain  
105 facilities; requiring the department to make certain  
106 recommendations to the Legislature; requiring the  
107 department to contract with a construction management  
108 entity in certain circumstances; authorizing the  
109 Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of  
110 Administration to issue bonds for certain purposes;  
111 creating a financing oversight committee; providing

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112 membership and duties of the committee; requiring the  
113 Chief Financial Officer to transfer specified funds to  
114 the State Board of Administration for the Debt  
115 Reduction Program; providing an effective date.  
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117 WHEREAS, the State of Florida is facing a looming crisis  
118 related to its correctional facility infrastructure, and

119 WHEREAS, many correctional facilities are more than 40  
120 years old, lack air conditioning, and have become too costly to  
121 maintain or modernize, and

122 WHEREAS, the age and design of the correctional facilities  
123 have become a safety concern for correctional officers and staff  
124 who work at such facilities, and

125 WHEREAS, the State of Florida lacks state-of-the-art  
126 medical and mental health facilities to adequately care for  
127 inmates, causing the Department of Corrections to serve inmates  
128 in more costly private facilities, and

129 WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriated \$850 million in the  
130 2022-2023 fiscal year for the planning, design, and construction  
131 of a new correctional institution and a new prison hospital unit  
132 which was subsequently vetoed by the Governor, and

133 WHEREAS, the failure to construct new correctional  
134 facilities could create systemwide capacity concerns which may  
135 result in the premature release of dangerous criminals and put  
136 the people of Florida at risk, and

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137 WHEREAS, the Legislature has allocated \$1.7 billion for the  
138 Debt Reduction Program over the past 3 fiscal years and driven a  
139 50 percent reduction in Florida's tax-supported debt, and

140 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the State of Florida to  
141 prioritize limited resources to maintain the safe operation and  
142 security of the state's correctional facilities to ensure public  
143 safety and the safety of correctional officers, staff, and  
144 inmates, and

145 WHEREAS, the immediate needs of the correctional facilities  
146 demand the reprioritization of funding previously used to retire  
147 debt that was financed at historically low rates to instead be  
148 invested in Florida's correctional employees and system, NOW,  
149 THEREFORE,

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