

SENATE JUDICIARY
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SB 17, 18

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FROM: WILLIAM D. BARRON
CHAIRMAN, LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RETIRED, LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF

REGARDING: SB17 & SB18

As a current County Commissioner and a Retired Sheriff with a 30+ year law enforcement career I feel that I am uniquely qualified to comment on these senate bills.

One of the main reasons I ran for Sheriff was because of the way our detention center was being operated. There was a murder, assaults and suicides, but nothing was being done to correct the problems. I blamed the commissioners for not helping the Sheriff address the problems. After becoming Sheriff I discovered the opposite to be true. The Sheriff was the one continuing to ignore the issues that lead to an ACLU lawsuit and a Federal Court Order that cost Lake County over \$1,500,000.00. To this day we still operate under a mandatory court order costing the county taxpayers approximately \$400,000.00 per year.

This problem was addressed by getting special training in Jail Administration for a Deputy Sheriff, Deputy County Attorney and County Commissioner. We then worked with the ACLU developing an outstanding detention program that has had very few problems over a 12 year period. Deputies were not allowed in the jail, unless summoned by a detention officer because of their lack of understanding.

An elected Sheriff can take office without any experience in detention issues, **THE HIGHEST LIABILITY AREA IN LAKE COUNTY**, and very few post certified officers have worked in or been trained in detention administration.

DETENTION ADMINISTRATION NEEDS TO BE A TEAM EFFORT!!! Our laws give us a much needed check and balance approach to jail issues. Don't take this away because of the problems in one county!

I truly believe that if these bills pass it will cost the counties money and result in lawsuits due to no control over poor administration.

I am one of the few people to have been on both side of this issue! **I WAS AGAINST THESE MEASURES WHEN I WAS SHERIFF, and I AM AGAINST THEM NOW.**

The Lake County Commissioners unanimously ask you to please vote **NO** on Senate Bills 17 and 18.

Sincerely,

William D. Barron