

**Item 31: Department of Corrections
Deer Ridge Correctional Institution**

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$3,000,000 from the special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board for the Department of Corrections to continue activating minimum security prison beds at the Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, approve the establishment of 33 positions, and consider any remaining unfunded amount during a future meeting of the Emergency Board or during the Department's agency-wide budget rebalance early in the 2017 legislative session.

The April 2016 prison population forecast continued to project a need for additional prison beds for men in the current biennium. In the February 2016 session, the legislature appropriated \$2.5 million General Fund to the DOC to prepare and open Deer Ridge and to move in all 787 male inmates from the minimum-security prison on the same site, which was then closed. The \$3 million special purpose appropriation will allow the department to finish equipping the prison with security features such as cameras and door controls, and to hire staff needed for opening up to 200 additional beds if the added capacity is warranted.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.