

## **Department of Corrections**

*Hartford Courant, February 5, 2009*

The two significant changes in the governor's proposed Department of Corrections budget would reduce money spent on inmate medical services and reinstate a re-entry furlough program.

Taken together, the two changes are expected to save close to \$11 million in each of the next two fiscal years, said DOC spokesman Brian Garnett.

The legislature eliminated the furlough program last year, but the governor has proposed bringing it back and extending it from 30 to 45 days within an inmate's release date. It would allow prison wardens to release certain inmates into the community, where they would be placed under supervision and given help finding jobs and housing.

Garnett said that 97 percent of inmates get through the re-entry furlough program without committing any crimes.

The governor has also proposed an annual \$5 million reduction in inmate medical services, which would result in a 5 percent reduction in the current, \$104 million medical services budget.

- Elizabeth Hamilton