



# A Legislative Summary Document Regarding Juvenile Probation Commission

Contents

Key Findings from Previous Audits  
and Reviews

Travel Expenditures

## State Auditor's Observations

The Juvenile Probation Commission (Commission) lacks an effective enforcement and monitoring system to ensure that the 168 local juvenile probation departments (departments) comply with state standards. Many of the weaknesses identified in our audit report have been brought to the Commission's attention in previous State Auditor's Office reports in 1996 and 1998. These weaknesses could put at risk the health and safety of juveniles under the departments' supervision.

Prepared for the 78th Legislature  
by the State Auditor's Office

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*This is not an audit report and, with the exception of any audit report summaries, the material in this document has not been subjected to all of the tests and confirmations performed in an audit.*

# Juvenile Probation Commission

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## Key Findings from Previous Audits and Reviews

January 1, 2001–December 31, 2002

### *An Audit Report on the Juvenile Probation Commission*

(Report No. 02-060, July 2002)

The Juvenile Probation Commission (Commission) lacks an effective enforcement and monitoring system to ensure that the 168 local juvenile probation departments (departments) comply with state standards. The Commission has not sanctioned departments for continued noncompliance with standards, including key standards related to the health and safety of juveniles and minimum standards for detention and correction officers. Many of the weaknesses identified in this report have been brought to the Commission's attention in previous State Auditor's Office reports in 1996 and 1998. These weaknesses could put at risk the health and safety of juveniles under the departments' supervision.

#### **Status of Audit Recommendations as of November 30, 2002**

No status is reported at this time to allow the Commission sufficient time to address recommendations in this recently released report.

Key facts and findings are as follows:

- Biennial appropriations for locally administered juvenile probation services have grown from \$83 million in the 1994–1995 biennium to \$238 million in the 2002–2003 biennium, an increase of 186 percent. Departments that accept state funds for locally administered probation services are required to comply with state standards for providing those services.
- Weaknesses in the Commission's monitoring function allow noncompliance with juvenile probation standards to persist.
- The Commission does not adequately identify, report, or track the results of its monitoring efforts at departments.
- Weaknesses in its administration of contract funds hinder the Commission's ability to ensure that juvenile probation funds are allocated and used in compliance with state requirements.
- Coordination gaps within the Commission hinder identification and correction of standards violations.
- The Commission does not adequately ensure that juvenile correction officers and detention officers meet minimum qualifications for state certification.
- The Commission has identified high error rates in the data that departments submit and that the Commission uses to report more than half of its key performance measures.
- The Commission's Management Information Systems division lacks adequate documentation for systems and procedures and assigns its programmers excessive access to data.

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## Travel Expenditures

Travel Expenditures by Appropriation Year (unaudited)			
	2000	2001	2002
In-State Travel	\$ 104,453	\$ 110,452	\$ 128,235
Out-of-State Travel	2,763	7,141	2,707
Foreign Travel	0	0	0
Other Travel Costs	69	0	258
<b>Total Travel Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 107,286</b>	<b>\$ 117,593</b>	<b>\$ 131,200</b>
Limit on Travel Expenditures (Cap)	126,325	126,325	2,763 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Expenditures in Excess of Cap</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

<sup>a</sup> Caps apply to total travel in appropriation years 2000 and 2001, but caps apply only to out-of-state travel and foreign travel in appropriation year 2002. Caps, calculated by the Comptroller of Public Accounts, have been adjusted for any increases requested by the Commission and approved by the Legislative Budget Board in accordance with the General Appropriations Act.

Source: Uniform Statewide Accounting System (USAS) as of November 30, 2002. Amounts are subject to change as agencies continue to record additional expenditures or adjustments.