

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 2753	House Appropriations:	PASSED 23-0 (4/1/26)
Committee:	Appropriations	House Floor:	PASSED 92-0 (4/8/26)
Floor Manager	Rep. Brian Lohse	Senate Floor:	
Date:	May 5, 2026	Governor:	
Staff:	Brad Trow (1-3471)		

Prison Infrastructure

House File 2753 would create a new prison infrastructure account to collect funds that had been used to pay off the 2009 bonds that paid for the construction of the new Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison. These bonds are expected to be paid off at the end of Fiscal Year 2027.

Once the bonds are paid off, two-thirds of the amount annually used for bond payments would be put into the prison infrastructure account and held there until the Legislature approved the construction of a new prison or expansion of a current facility. The remaining one-third would be deposited into the prison recidivism reduction account for programs to reduce recidivism.

House File 2753 would also call for an interim study committee to examine the issues surrounding prison capacity and the feasibility of constructing a new prison or expanding a current facility.

Section-by-Section Analysis

Section 1 – Iowa Code section 12.80 (4):

The section amends section 12.80 (4) by changing the name of the fund that the State Treasurer deposits the proceeds of bond issuances for prison infrastructure.

Section 2 – Iowa Code section 602.8108A

The section makes several changes to section 602.8108A, which is the Prison Infrastructure Fund. This fund received money collected from fines, fees, costs and forfeited bail collected by the clerks of district court in criminal cases.

The section has that any bonds related to prison infrastructure issued either by the State Treasurer or the Iowa Finance Authority can be paid through the Prison Infrastructure Fund. The section provides that when the bonds on the new Iowa State Penitentiary are paid off (expected to be after FY 2027), an amount equal to two-thirds of the bond payment made in Fiscal Year 2026 will be deposited in the new prison infrastructure account in the Prison Infrastructure Fund. These funds would be used for the construction of new prisons or replacement of infrastructure at existing prisons.

The section also creates the prison recidivism reduction account, which will receive an amount equal to one-third of the bond payment made in Fiscal Year 2026, which would be subject to appropriation by the Legislature for creating new programs or expanding existing programs that reduce recidivism.

Section 3 – NEW SECTION – Infrastructure report by department – Iowa Code section 904.115A

The section moves the existing infrastructure reporting requirement on the Department of Corrections in Iowa Code section 12.79 to this new subsection of the Department's code chapter.

Section 4 – REPEAL

The section repeals Iowa Code section 12.79, which created the FY 2009 Prison Bonding Fund.

Section 5 – LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEE – CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF ADDITIONAL PRISON IN THE STATE

The section requests the Legislative Council to establish an interim study committee to explore issues of prison capacity and the feasibility of an additional prison or other prison housing options. The section lays out the topics that the study committee is to look at. The study committee would be comprised of 3 Representatives and 3 Senators and is to complete its work by December 18, 2026.