

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Committee on Institutions
FROM: Joe Aja, Director of Design and Construction
CC: Wanda L. Minoli, Commissioner of Buildings and General Services,
Emily Kisicki, Deputy Commissioner of Buildings and General Services,
Cole Barney, Communications and Legislative Affairs Manager
DATE: April 20, 2026
SUBJECT: H.952, an act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment

As requested, the Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) is providing a written summary of our testimony on April 17 regarding H.952, an act relating to capital construction and State bonding budget adjustment.

Statewide: Door Controls

BGS appreciates the committee's increase of funding over the House-passed version. Our funding request to the Governor, which was supported in the Governor's recommended Capital Bill adjustment, was \$2,700,000. As of the time of our testimony, a gap of \$750,000 remained. As we have testified, we are under contract with a construction manager and the project cost estimates are based on best estimates. The project is out to bid by the construction manager, and we will soon have a guaranteed maximum price. We do not foresee a reduction in costs from our estimate. Door controls are a significant security feature for our correctional facilities and are in need of upgrades and replacements. These improvements are needed due to critical functional and security risks in the existing infrastructure. As we have presented to the committee, the implications of not fully funding the amount needed would require a reduction in scope or phased work. Deferring scope of work will increase future costs and create operational disruptions in a very active correctional facility, and partial implementation is inefficient and may require duplicative systems. We work closely with the Department of Corrections on all construction projects to prioritize, plan work, and ensure the least amount of disruption of operations.

Newport: Northern State Correctional Facility Boiler Replacement

As we have testified, our funding request to the Governor was \$2,000,000. Reduction in the funding amount will prevent our ability to move parts of the project forward like preordering long-lead items such as the boiler and structural steel as well as beginning foundation work in the Spring. As we have presented to the committee, the stormwater design is moving forward. Coordination with the Agency of Natural Resources also indicates a viable path forward for permitting. The facility's chimney failure has taken the wood boilers offline, and the facility is currently relying on #2 fuel oil, which has a higher cost and is non-compliant with Act 250 requirements. The existing system also requires labor-intensive manual wood handling by incarcerated individuals. Not fully funding this project would delay work and procurement of long-lead items, potentially delaying the project by 1 year or more, and increase costs.

3-Acre Stormwater Compliance

Again, BGS is very appreciative of the committee's support for increased funding over the House-passed version, however there is still a gap of \$500,000 from our funding request to the Governor of \$2,600,000. As we have testified, this compliance is a requirement, and any reduction of funding limits the number of projects that can proceed and would require reprioritization, which would delay some projects. Any projects that are delayed a year will risk falling behind compliance timelines and face higher construction costs. With projects in Middlesex (out to bid), Northwest State Correctional Facility (going out to bid soon), Pittsford (nearing bid), and Northern State Correctional Facility, funding delays will complicate sequencing of permits and poses a risk to our ability to meet the deadlines.

