

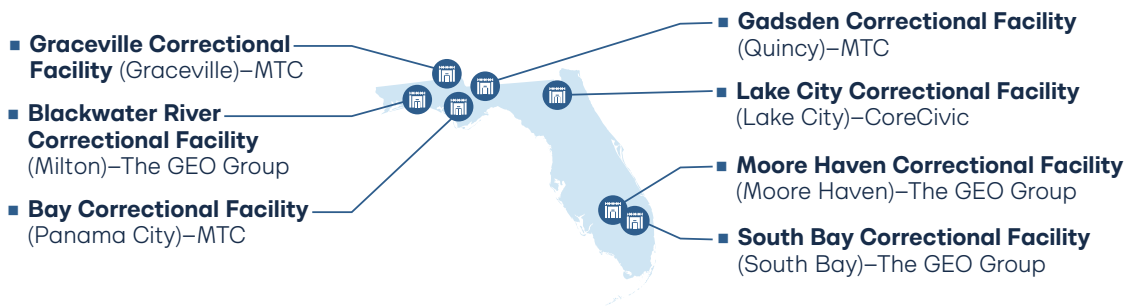

# Private Prison Reform in Florida

Rather than rewarding rehabilitation and success, Florida's guaranteed minimum occupancy payments to private prison operators incentivize cutting corners and warehousing inmates at the lowest possible cost.




Private prisons in Florida hold **11,728 inmates**, or **13.9 percent of the state's prison population**,<sup>1</sup> across seven facilities operated by The GEO Group, CoreCivic, and MTC.<sup>2</sup>

## Private Prisons in Florida:

The GEO Group, CoreCivic, and MTC have cornered the market with **anti-competitive laws** and **unaccountable contracts**, all while raking in **\$236 million** in state funds per year.<sup>3</sup>



Further, Florida law dictates that any organization wanting to bid on **private prison management contracts** must have a “demonstrated history” of operational experience.

This means if a group of corrections professionals starts a new business to challenge the legacy operators, Florida law forbids the state from even considering their proposal. This makes it effectively impossible for new operators to enter the market, stifling competition.

**It's time to introduce accountability for private prisons through competition and contract reform.**

## THE SOLUTION

Performance-based contracts pay operators more if inmates recidivate less and become employed. Florida should rebid all contracts to be based on performance, aligning contract incentives with the success of the state correctional system.

Florida must also repeal the demonstrated history requirement and allow competitive start-ups to challenge legacy companies.

## WHY IT MATTERS



Increasing competition and basing contract terms on **measurable outcomes** would refocus criminal justice on effective rehabilitation, which would set incarcerated individuals up for **success and improve community safety**.

## THE BOTTOM LINE:

Florida's private prison operators need more competition and accountability to better serve the people of the Sunshine State.

### Florida should:



- Repeal anti-competitive laws in private prison contracts and let the market work.
- Hold prisons accountable by introducing performance-based contracts that pay private prison operators based on the results they achieve.

### SOURCES:

1. Bureau of Justice Statistics. "Prisoners in 2022 – Statistical Tables." United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. November 2023. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/p22st.pdf>.
2. Dupuis, Jakob and Christopher Sharp. "Aligning Profit with Outcomes in Private Prison Procurement." Cicero Institute. 2024.
3. Florida House Bill 5001. 2024. <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/5001/BillText/er/PDF>.