

Private Prison Reform in Ohio

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

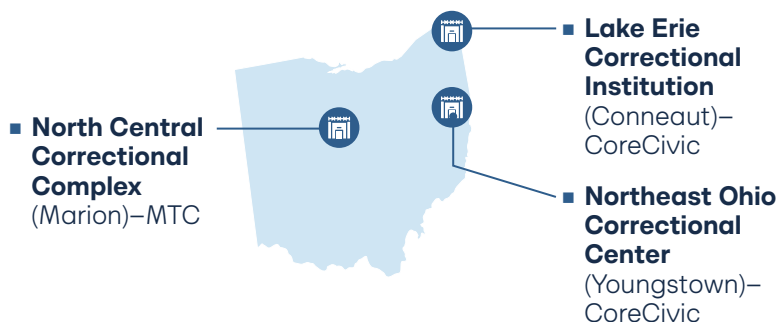
That's short-term thinking. Protectionist procurement laws limit innovation and competition—which ends up costing more in the long term.



4,949 INMATES

Private prisons in Ohio hold nearly **11 percent of the state's prison population**,¹ costing the state nearly **\$100 million per year**.²

Private Prisons in Ohio:



Prisoner-on-prisoner violence in the private prisons are higher than in state-run prisons.³



Private prison **correctional officer vacancies average over 40 percent** compared to just eight percent across state-run prisons.⁴⁻⁷



Further, Ohio law dictates that any organization wanting to bid on private prison management contracts **must already be operating a private prison**.

This means if a group of corrections professionals starts a new business to challenge the legacy operators, Ohio 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. Ohio should rebid all contracts to be based on performance, aligning contract incentives with the success of the state correctional system.

Ohio must also repeal the “current operator” requirement to allow competitive start-ups to challenge legacy companies.

WHY IT MATTERS

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**.

Removing unnecessary barriers to entry will incentivize all contractors to innovate through **market competition**, focusing on **outcomes** and ensuring Ohioans' tax dollars are spent on the **best practices**.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

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

Ohio should:



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

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