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# WV Jail Overcrowding Reaching Crisis Point

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)

West Virginia's jail system is overcrowded and officials predict a lot more bed space will be needed by the end of 2012.



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State corrections Commissioner Jim Rubenstein says regional jails have put in bunk beds to expand their capacity beyond their original design.

About 6,700 prisoners have been sentenced to state custody in a system with room for only 5,100. Nearly 1,600 inmates have been sent to regional jails.

The division predicts bed space will be needed for 8,500 inmates by the end of 2012, and 10,300 inmates by 2017. The cost of housing a prison inmate is \$25,500 a year.

Rubenstein tells West Virginia Public Broadcasting that the Division of Corrections is working on several recommendations issued last year by a state commission, but he says several others require legislative action.

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