

Jails benefit from new law

(Continued from page 1)

House Rep. Willard "Woody" Allen, R-Morgantown, thinks the new law would give the way to regional jails, he voted against it.

"The new law means another office would be destroyed (local government's control of jails)," he said.

SENATORIAL JAILS would eliminate separate county jails in smaller counties by combining several jails into one.

Allen said he feared this could hurt individuals committing misdemeanors which are more often resulting in shorter sentences and smaller fines than felonies.

"Young adults who might get picked up for drinking and driving (a misdemeanor) might not be handled seriously," he said. "Regional jails wouldn't do any good here when these individuals could work at home (if individual counties had jails)."

Some other Republicans favored the law.

"It's permissive legislation," Rep. Clarence D. Inland, D-Prince, said. "It allows counties who agree on regional jails to take part, but it's not forcing anyone."

Inland said he had one county in his district with such a low jail population (averaging three prisoners per day) it couldn't afford to maintain a jail.

"That county could work with another one under the regional jail system," he said.

SOME COUNTY jails not meeting federal standards will now be forced to close due to the law's passage. This is

one reason Rep. Randy Moore, R-Bell, opposed it when it was a bill in the House Criminal and Special Districts committee.

"I think every county should have a jail and jailer," Moore said.

Moore also disliked the bill because it would allow county board members to give jailers other responsibilities if their jails were forced to close down.

"If this is the new law gives the board control over to jailers, they would be out of work," Arnold said.

Arnold said jailers' additional duties could include acting as court bailiffs, transportation officers (transporting prisoners to adjacent county jails) or as custodians for public buildings.

He said some legislators worried that jailers would end up being their job if the law passed.

"With additional duties jailers wouldn't be out of work," Arnold said.

HE SAID a lot of people don't think the federal government should force the counties to upgrade jails.

Rep. Frank Hancock, D-Frankfort, said House Bill 218 was confusing to some people.

"It was the entire job issue) one of the most misunderstood issues in the Legislature," Hancock said. "Many

people don't realize the federal government's possible intervention into the system."

He said the primary problem which makes the new law important, is the jails not meeting federal standards.

"If we didn't pass this legislation, the federal government couldn't come in as it has in other states," said Hancock.

SENATE BILL 261, which was also signed into law, complements House Bill 218, according to Arnold.

Arnold said SB 261 represents a new funding formula for a more equitable distribution of state dollars to counties for jail operations.

"The formula was changed somewhat," said Arnold. "Where some counties used to get \$5,000-\$8,000 now a county will get less than \$25,000 — regardless if it has a jail."

Both new laws should be effective for upgrading jails, Arnold said.

"Many county jails statewide are in poor shape," he said. "These legislative pieces will do wonders to help them meet federal standards."

(Miss Conley, a writer-journalist student at the University of Kentucky, covered the General Assembly as a class assignment.)

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For a free copy of the Teletip topics catalog, write to the Office of Marketing Services, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 705 Florio, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort 40621.

Deaths

MRS. W. D. BARNES Mrs. Abbie Marie Barnes, 82, died Friday, April 23, 1964 in Beaver Dam. She was a native of Nicholas County, daughter of the late David and Feriala Denny, and a member of the Methodist Church.

Services were April 24 at Danke Funeral Chapel, Beaver Dam, by the Rev. Charles Bennett. Burial in Buryside Cemetery.

STRAUDER S. SMITH Strauder S. Smith, 87, of Greenville, OH, formerly of Carlisle, died Friday, April 23, 1964 in Greenville.

Several sisters and nephews survive. Services were Tuesday, April 28, at Miller Funeral Home in Greenville. Burial in Carlisle Cemetery.

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