

## Remarks

### MDOC/Private Prison 070202

Today, I met with representatives from the companies who currently have the management contracts for the 5 private prisons in Mississippi.

We have reached an agreement with these companies that will save the State of Mississippi \$10 million dollars. This agreement will in no way compromise the safety of the people in our communities.

The issue here is not whether I have the authority to negotiate with the Private Prison Companies – I do have that authority.

The issue here is not whether I have the authority to veto that portion of the bill.

As you know, I exercised a partial veto of Senate Bill 3163 that appropriated \$54,726,714 in General Funds for Private Prisons and restricted any transfers that reduce funds allocated to Private Prisons.

In my veto on April 9, I stated that the full appropriation and unusual restriction locks away money for Private Prisons whether there are sufficient inmates to justify the allocation or not.

STATE IN GENERAL TERMS THE  
AGREEMENT

