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CHAPTER 9.

JAIL AND PRISON INSPECTION PROGRAM

**SECTION 24‑9‑10.** Jail and Prison Inspection Division established in Department of Corrections; personnel.

There is hereby established a Jail and Prison Inspection Division under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections. The inspectors and such other personnel as may be provided for the division shall be selected by the director of the department.

**SECTION 24‑9‑20.** Inspection of State and local facilities housing prisoners or pretrial detainees; reports.

The division shall be responsible for inspecting, in conjunction with a representative of the State Fire Marshal, at least annually every facility in this State housing prisoners or pretrial detainees operated by or for a state agency, county, municipality, or any other political subdivision, and such inspections shall include all phases of operation, fire safety, and health and sanitation conditions at the respective facilities. Food service operations of the facilities must be inspected at least annually by an employee of the Department of Health and Environmental Control. The inspections of local confinement facilities shall be based on standards established by the South Carolina Association of Counties and adopted by the Department of Corrections, and appropriate fire and health codes and regulations. The division, the inspecting fire marshal, and the food service inspector of the Department of Health and Environmental Control shall each prepare a written report on the conditions of the inspected facility. Copies of the reports shall be filed with the chairman of the governing body of the political subdivision having jurisdiction of the facility inspected, the chairman of the governing body of each political subdivision involved in a multi‑jurisdictional facility, the administrator, manager, or supervisor for the political subdivision, the responsible sheriff or police chief if he has operational custody of the inspected facility, and the administrator or director of the inspected facility. All reports shall be filed through the Director of the Department of Corrections.

**SECTION 24‑9‑30.** Enforcement of minimum standards.

(a) If an inspection under this chapter discloses that a local confinement facility does not meet the minimum standards established by the South Carolina Association of Counties and adopted by the Department of Corrections, and the appropriate fire and health codes and regulations, the Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections shall notify the governing body of the political subdivision responsible for the local confinement facility. A copy of the written reports of the inspections required by this chapter shall also be sent to the resident or presiding judge of the judicial circuit in which the facility is located. The governing body shall promptly meet to consider the inspection reports, and the inspection personnel shall appear, if requested, to advise and consult concerning appropriate corrective action. The governing body shall initiate appropriate corrective action within ninety days or may voluntarily close the local confinement facility or objectionable portion thereof.

(b) If the governing body fails to initiate corrective action within ninety days after receipt of the reports of the inspections, or fails to correct the disclosed conditions, the Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections may order that the local confinement facility, or objectionable portion thereof, be closed at such time as the order may designate. However, if the director determines that the public interest is served by permitting the facility to remain open, he may stipulate actions to avoid or delay closing the facility. The governing body and the resident or presiding judge of the judicial circuit shall be notified by registered mail of the director’s order closing a local confinement facility.

(c) The governing body shall have the right to appeal the director’s order to the resident or presiding judge of the circuit in which the facility is located. Notice of the intention to appeal shall be given by registered mail to the Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections and to the resident or presiding judge within fifteen days after receipt of the director’s order. The right of appeal shall be deemed waived if notice is not given as herein provided.

(d) The appeal shall be heard before the resident or presiding judge of the circuit who shall give reasonable notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing to the Director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the governing body concerned. The hearing shall be conducted without a jury in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Circuit Court. The Department of Corrections, the governing body concerned, other responsible local officials, and fire and health inspection personnel shall have a right to be present at the hearing and present evidence which the court deems appropriate to determine whether the local confinement facility met the required minimum standards and appropriate fire and health codes and regulations on the date of the last inspection. The court may affirm, reverse, or modify the director’s order.

**SECTION 24‑9‑35.** Reports of deaths of incarcerated persons; penalty.

If any person dies while being incarcerated in any municipal or county overnight lockup or jail, county prison or state correctional facility, the jailer or any other person physically in charge of the facility at the time death occurs shall immediately notify the coroner of the county in which the institution is located. The jailer or other person in charge shall also report the death and circumstances surrounding it within seventy‑two hours to the Jail and Prison Inspection Division of the Department of Corrections. The division shall retain a permanent record of such reports. Reports shall be made on forms prescribed by the division.

Any person knowingly and willfully violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars.

**SECTION 24‑9‑40.** Certification of compliance with design standards; notification of opening or closing of state or local prison facility.

In order to certify compliance with minimum design standards, the Jail and Prison Inspection Division of the Department of Corrections shall be provided with architectural plans before construction of any state or local confinement facility. Further, the Jail and Prison Inspection Division shall be notified not less than fifteen days prior to the opening of any state or local prison facility so that inspections and reports may be made. Ninety days prior to the closing of any state or local prison facility, the Division shall be notified by the officials concerned.

**SECTION 24‑9‑50.** Reports on detention facilities to the Department of Corrections; electronic reporting.

(A) Each local governmental entity responsible for a municipal, county, regional, or multijurisdictional detention facility shall report to the Department of Corrections, at the times and in the form required by the department, data and information prescribed by the department:

(1) for the classification and management of inmates who receive sentences greater than three months; and

(2) on the classification and management of inmates who are in pretrial status and inmates who receive sentences to be served locally.

(B) Data and information authorized in the Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities in South Carolina for the operation and management of a statewide jail information system shall be reported to the department by each local governmental entity.

(C) To the greatest extent possible, reports should be submitted through a means of electronic data transfer approved by the department. If it is not possible for a local governmental entity to submit reports through the approved means of electronic data transfer, it shall certify such to the department. The department and the respective local governmental entity shall determine a suitable alternative means for submission of reports until such time as the local governmental entity is able to electronically transfer data in the manner approved by the department.