



American Jail Association

Ensuring Safe and Adequate Staffing Levels in Detention Facilities

- WHEREAS,** the safety, security, and constitutional rights of incarcerated individuals, as well as the safety of staff and the public, are the primary responsibilities of any detention facility; and
- WHEREAS,** the practice of "single-staffing" or "lone-officer" shifts creates inherent security vulnerabilities and significantly increases response times during life-threatening emergencies; and
- WHEREAS,** detention officers in understaffed facilities are frequently required to perform ancillary duties—including emergency dispatch, food service, and laundry operations—which impede their core mission of active supervision and facility security; and
- WHEREAS,** recognized industry standards indicate that requiring staff to divide attention across multiple operational duties compromises active supervision and increases risk of critical incidents, including assaults and self-harm; and
- WHEREAS,** inadequate staffing levels are a primary driver of officer burnout and high turnover rates, and may create operational liability regarding constitutional compliance;
- THEREFORE,**
BE IT
RESOLVED that the American Jail Association (AJA) formally supports the elimination of single-officer staffing models in any facility where it compromises the safety of the staff or the population; and
- BE IT FURTHER**
RESOLVED that the AJA advocates that all agencies conduct a data-driven National Institute of Corrections Staffing Analysis—or a comparable evidence-based assessment—to determine the minimum staffing levels required to maintain a safe, secure, and constitutionally compliant facility; and
- BE IT FURTHER**
RESOLVED that the AJA urges local and state funding authorities to prioritize the allocation of resources necessary to meet these essential staffing requirements to protect the life, safety, and fiscal integrity of their jurisdictions.

Sunset Provision

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption and shall remain in full force and effect for a period of five (5) years, after which it shall automatically expire on May 16, 2031, unless formally reaffirmed, revised, or amended by the Board of Directors prior to that date.

ADOPTED this 16th day of May 2026.