

Furthermore ...

Prisons busting at seams; time to review criminal code

Efforts to address Indiana's burgeoning prison population gained much credibility when Gov. Mitch Daniels announced the state's plans to work with the Pew Center on the States and the Council of State Governments Justice Center to review the state's criminal code.

As an editorial on this page reported last week, Indiana recorded the largest percentage increase in state prison population last year, a year when nationwide, the number of prisoners decreased.

Not coincidentally, an overall review of the state's criminal code last occurred 34 years ago. Indiana Chief Justice Randall Shepard noted the state has numerous alternative sentencing programs. Allen County's Re-Entry Court is one of the innovators, and Superior Court Judge John Surbeck is on a panel that will oversee the study.