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Report: Calif. keeps inmates isolated too long

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SACRAMENTO—The inspector general of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation says the department could save nearly \$11 million annually if it followed its own rules.

Inspector General David Shaw said in a report released Thursday the department keeps some inmates in disciplinary segregation units longer than required under prison policies. He estimates the lengthy stays, on average, cost taxpayers an extra \$14,600 annually for each inmate kept in segregation instead of the general prison population. That's mostly because extra guards are needed.

The state can be sued if it violates the inmate's rights or keeps the inmate isolated too long.

Corrections spokeswoman Terry Thornton says the department will improve its tracking of inmates, administrative reviews and training of employees making segregation decisions at all 33 prisons in response to the report.

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