



2012-5

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION URGES SINGLE
STANDARDIZATION BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR JAIL
COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT OF FEDERAL INMATES AND
DETAINEES**

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association represents the 3,083 elected sheriffs nationwide;

WHEREAS, more than 80% of the nation's local jails are managed and operated by sheriffs;

WHEREAS, many sheriffs across the United States enter into federal contracts to lease bed space in county jails to house inmates or detainees for agencies within the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), including the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Marshal Service (USMS);

WHEREAS, additionally, the upcoming implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards will mandate sheriffs and their jails and holding facilities comply with a new set of standards to ensure compliance with the Act;

WHEREAS, the various agencies of DHS and DOJ each have separate proprietary operational and facility guidelines and each must be applied by the sheriff before qualifying for the contracts;

WHEREAS, sheriffs must submit to periodic, separate inspections and audits by DHS and DOJ agencies to demonstrate continuing compliance to these guidelines once inmates or detainees are committed to the facilities;

WHEREAS, many states have developed operational and facility guidelines and also may provide regular compliance inspection, and sheriffs must comply with such state guidelines in their jails;

WHEREAS, the multitude of guidelines from both federal agencies and the states cause confusion and conflict among sheriffs and counties, creating challenges in compliance assessment;

WHEREAS, sheriffs are faced with multiple audits and inspections effected by each of these independent agencies and their State and are concerned that the audits and inspections are redundant, resulting in a waste of both time and expense;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association urges the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to consolidate federal inspections and to consider deferring to successful state inspections and audits, or accreditation by a recognized corrections association for jail inspections, as proof of compliance with appropriate standards.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in Nashville, TN on June 18, 2012.