1700s

1796 Tennessee admitted to the Union

1799 Act passes providing the death penalty for horse stealing

1800s

1813 First act passes to raise money to build a central prison; no public support; concept fails

1819 Governor Joseph McMinn recommends that the state fund construction of a central prison; again no public support; concept fails

1829 Governor William Hall

Governor William Carroll

Act passes to provide for building a public jail and penitentiary house, state-funded

A five person Board of Inspectors (including the Governor and Secretary of State as ex officio members) is created

1831 Tennessee State Penitentiary (TSP) located just south of 7th Avenue and Broadway in Nashville, became operational for both men and women; 65 inmates employed by public works

1850s Inmates employed to build State Capitol

1850 Governor Isham G. Harris

TSP moves to Church Street

Governor given power of executive clemency

1863 Union Army takes over TSP to use as a military prison; all state prisoners were moved to Brushy Mountain

1865 Governor William Gannaway Brownlow

Legislature employs three directors to create and coordinate a convict leasing system

1870 Convict leasing system begins leasing inmates to the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company; first work release program in the country

1871 Governor John Calvin Brown

Office of Superintendent of Prisons created

1873 Act passes for a new penitentiary for farming and mining at Brushy Mountain

1877 Governor James Davis Porter

Act passes ruling prison labor will not compete with free-world industry

1883 Governor William Brimage Bate

Act passes prohibiting over 550 men in one prison

All prisoners now given physical examinations upon entry into the system as provided by Legislative Act

1885 Act passes to allow convicts good time in diminution of their sentences

1890s Separate wing is built at TSP for female inmates; prior to this, male and female offenders were housed in the same unit

1891 Governor James Pierce Buchanan

Insurrection by miners protesting the use of free inmate labor in mines; free-world miners place inmate miners on train out of town causing the creation of the State Militia

1893 Convict leasing system is abolished

1895 Brushy Mountain Prison is built in Petros
1898  TSP moves to new location in Cockrill Bend; not over 20% of the total cost of the new prison was spent for materials purchased outside the State of Tennessee

The cost to house an inmate for one year was approximately $117.48 (.32/day)

1899  Governor Benton McMillan

Legislature approves resolution temporarily housing federal inmates from Tennessee and surrounding states to generate income

1900s

1900  New building for female inmates is opened within the walls of TSP

1902  Board of Prison Commissioners created by Legislature

1904  Suspension-by-thumbs abolished legislatively as a means of punishment for inmates

1905  Governor John Isaacs Cox

Behavior grading system initiated at Brushy Mountain

1907  Governor Malcolm Rice Patterson

Act passes to create a juvenile facility for boys

1908  One 10 year old and one 11 year old boy are committed to state prison; each to serve 2-3 years for larceny and other related offenses

1911  Tennessee Reformatory for Boys in Jordonia opens, under Governor Ben Hooper, receiving 11-23 year old males for both determinate and indeterminate sentences

Board of three prison commissioners established by Governor Ben Hooper

1913  Act passes authorizing a parole system and indeterminate sentencing for adult offenders; act also changes death penalty from hanging to electrocution

1915  Governor Thomas Clarke Rye

State Reformatory for Girls is founded in Tullahoma by the Tennessee Federation of Women’s Clubs

Legislature creates State Board of Controls to manage penal, reformatory, and charitable institutions

1916  First man electrocuted in Tennessee

1918  Tennessee Reformatory for Negro Boys is founded in Pikeville

State Reformatory for Girls receives its first girls

The cost to house an inmate for one year was approximately $230.57 (.63/day)

1919  Governor Albert Houston Roberts

The State Board of Control is replaced by a Board for the Administration of State Institutions composed of the Governor, state treasurer, and general manager of state organizations

1921  Governor Alfred Alexander Taylor

State Vocation School for Colored Girls is founded in Nashville

1923  Governor Austin Peay

Commissioner Lewis S. Pope

Administrative Reorganization Act passes placing the administration of penal, reformatory, and charitable institutions under the newly created Department of Institutions

TSP contracts with State for inmates to make license plates
1902—Main Prison in Nashville

1897—State Prison Farm
1927 Governor Henry H. Horton
Commissioner Richard Lyle

1928 Shelby County Penal Farm is founded as a minimum security facility

1929 Act creates the Advisory Board of Pardons

1930 New building for adult female offenders is built, physically separate from TSP, but still on its grounds and administratively dependent

1931 Advisory Board of Pardons creates a system for parole eligibility

1933 Governor Harry Hill McAllister
Commissioner Edwin W. Cocke, M.D.
Legislature creates an Industrial Division of the Department of Institutions

1933 New Brushy Mountain Prison is being built in Petros

1936 Commissioner Barton Brown

1937 Governor Gordon Browning
Commissioner George Cate, Sr.
The Administrative Reorganization Act is amended, creating the Department of Institutions and Public Welfare, including Confederate Soldier’s Home, School for the Blind, School for the Deaf, Tennessee Industrial School at TSP, the Blind Commission, Clover Bottom Developmental Center, three regional psychiatric hospitals, and the Gailor Center
Act creates Board of Pardons and Paroles; appointments made by the Governor and the Board is chaired by Commissioner of DIPW

1938 Fort Pillow State Penal farm is founded as a medium security farming facility in Lauderdale County, West Tennessee, to separate first-time offenders from the rest of the prison population

1939 Governor Prentice Cooper
Commissioner Andrew T. Taylor

1939 Habitual Criminal Act passes

1939 World War II - Private industry used prison labor

1939 The Department of Institutions and Public Welfare is divided into two departments: Department of Institutions and Department of Public Welfare

1941 Commissioner W. O. Baird, MD

1945 Governor Jim Nance McCord
Commissioner W. O. Baird, MD

1951 Boys’ Reformatories became State Training and Agriculture Schools

1951 Commissioner Keith Hampton

1953 Governor Frank Goad Clement

1953 Responsibility for mental health facilities is transferred from the Department of Institutions to form the Department of Mental Health

1955 Classification System created at TSP

1955 The name of the Department of Institutions is changed to the Department of Correction (DOC)

1955 State Training Schools for boys are renamed State Vocation Training Schools for White Boys (Jordonia) and Colored Boys (Pikeville)

1956 Corporal punishment for juveniles is
1922—Brushy Mountain coal Mine

1922—Tennessee State Pententiary
abolished (reinstated 1957)

1957  Act establishes the Division of Juvenile Probation

1958  Statewide Juvenile Probation system becomes operational

Maximum security building, including electric chair, is built at TSP

1959  Governor Buford Ellington

Commissioner Keith Hampton

1960  William Tines is the last person executed in the State of Tennessee prior to the Furman Decision

1961  Division of Adult Probation and Parole are established legislatively

Tennessee Youth Center in Joelton founded as a forestry camp for boys

1963  Governor Frank G. Clement

Commissioner Harry S. Avery

Act establishes Division of Youth Services; provides for an Assistant Commissioner

Major changes in Parole Board: 5-member, part-time board; first black member is appointed

1965  Juvenile institutions are desegregated and classified by age

Intensive Treatment Rehabilitation Center for juveniles opens in Nashville near Jordonia; operated by the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

State prison school is established and accredited

Mining operations at Brushy Mountain abandoned due to safety problems

1966  Cell blocks integrated at all adult institutions

Corporal punishment abolished for adult offenders

New Tennessee Prison for Women, Stewarts Lane, becomes operational. Former facility converted to Rehabilitation Center for males (day program operated by Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation)

1967  Governor Buford Ellington

Commissioner Harry S. Avery

DOC Central Office moved to Doctor's Building

Work Release is established at Shelby County Penal Farm

Division of Religious Services is created

Correctional Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in Nashville opens

1968  Treatment services initiated at TSP

Vocational Rehabilitation Unit opened

1969  Commissioner Lake F. Russell

Opportunity House, Inc., becomes operational; a half-way house for men in Nashville

3 adult institutions are reclassified: Brushy to maximum security; TSP to medium, and Fort Pillow (now named Cold Creek Correctional Facility) to minimum

1970  Division of Rehabilitative Services is created legislatively

Prisoner Rehabilitation Act of 1970 provides for adult work release

Act passes for relieving Commissioner of DOC as chair for Board of Pardons
and Paroles; Chairman elected by Board members

DOC Central Office moved to Andrew Jackson State Office Building

MTSU Diagnostic Center contracted for juvenile offender psychological testing

Interstate Compact established

1971

Governor Winfield Dunn

Commissioner Mark Luttrell

Work Release Center opened in Chattanooga

Tennessee Youth Development Center (TYDC) founded in Somerville

State Vocational Training School for Boys in Pikeville renamed James M. Taft Youth Center; State Vocational Training School for Boys in Jordonia renamed Spencer Youth Center

Turney Center for Youthful Offenders in Only became operational; facility named after Governor Peter Turney, the first governor to advocate habilitation of prisoners and housing juvenile offenders separate from adult offenders

1972

State Vocational Training School for Girls in Nashville reverts to a reception and diagnostic center for juveniles

12-14 year old female offenders transferred to TYDC making it the first co-educational juvenile correctional institution in state’s history

State Vocational Training School for girls in Tullahoma renamed Highland Rim School for Girls

Act reformulates three-member Board of Pardons and Paroles; Chairman appointed by the Governor; members will now be full time professionals appointed by the Governor

1973

Mandatory death sentence imposed for those convicted of first degree murder

DOC Central Office moved to First American Center

Work Release Unit opened in Nashville (at the old Spencer ITC Unit)

1974

Group Homes for juveniles opened in Nashville and Memphis

Tennessee Corrections Institute (TCI) established to train DOC employees

Mandatory Death Sentence Act of 1973 found unconstitutional

Intensive Treatment Unit created at Spencer Youth Center

Department embraces regional prison concept and commences construction on new prisons in Memphis and Morristown. The Morristown prison construction was stopped before completion because of community opposition

1975

Governor Ray Blanton

Commissioner Herman Yeatman

C. Murray Henderson replaces Yeatman as Commissioner

Procedure changed and Governor appointed a new Chairman to Pardons and Paroles Board

TYDC renamed John S. Wilder Youth
Development Center (WYDC)

Bars removed from windows at Highland Rim

Inmate riot at Tennessee State Penitentiary

U.S. Supreme Court rules Georgia's death penalty constitutional. Several states follow suit, modeling their efforts after Georgia

Brushy Mountain reopened

Memphis Correctional Center opened (MCC)

Ft. Pillow (now Cold Creek Correctional Facility) is reclassified as medium security facility

WYDC received Governor's Award for Design Excellence

Sit-down strike by inmates caused temporary lock-down at Brushy Mountain

The department is authorized to establish residential restitution centers

10 group homes for juveniles approved through LEAA grant

Boys' institutions reclassified: under 14 years - Wilder; 14-18 year old property offenders - Spencer; 14-18 year old repeat offenders and those who commit a crime against persons - Taft; TYC still has voluntary commitments

DeBerry Correctional Institute for special needs offenders opens

DOC is empowered to set up demonstration projects involving inmate labor and private industry to be know as Tennessee Restitution Industries

U.S. Supreme Court rules that death penalty is constitutional; death penalty is reinstated in Tennessee

1978

7 group homes became operational: Knoxville, Lebanon, Oak Ridge, Elizabethton, 2 in Memphis, and the Inman Group Home in Tullahoma

WYDC stopped receiving girls; all girls are received at and committed to Highland Rim

Board of Parole expands its membership to five

Corporal punishment is abolished in juvenile institutions; the cells at Spencer closed

College programs are set up at Brushy for Roane State Community College and Lincoln Memorial University

Governor Lamar Alexander

Commissioner Harold B. Bradley

1979

DOC Central Office moved to State Office Building

Nashville Work Release unit closed (old Intensive Treatment Center at Spencer) and merged with the Community Rehabilitation Center

Labor dispute at Taft promoted disturbance

Reorganization of the DOC

Regional Prison at Cockrill Bend in Nashville opened; Wardens appointed at Bledsoe, Morgan, and Lake County Regional Prisons to open in 1980-81

The computerized Offender Based State Correctional Information System (OBSCIS) becomes operational

Juvenile status offenders are released from institutions for placement in community-based programs or home

Act passes to separate the Board of
Pardons and Paroles from DOC; BOP becomes a five-member autonomous unit

Class-X Crimes bill becomes effective

Wilder Youth Development Center receives Certificate of Merit from UT-Martin

Extended furlough system abolished by legislature

Tennessee Reception and Guidance Center for Children is officially named as such

Five-year residency requirement for Commissioner of Correction is removed

Sale of prison-made goods expanded to include private, non-profit organizations

Three more group homes became operational: Morning Star, Madisonville, and Bradley County

Fire at Oak Ridge Group Home temporarily closes down the home

Act passes prohibiting status offenders from being committed to DOC until after third adjudication

Commissioner is authorized to contract with local governments when prisons become overcrowded

The TDOC Supervision and Rehabilitation Fund is established

1980 Promulgated comprehensive set of policy and procedures which guide management of TDOC

1981 A volunteer prisoner work program for minimum risk prisoners is established

The County Correctional Incentive Act passes with the Commissioner responsible for implementing

Implementation of the Plan of the 1980s

1982 The disbursement of funds for the Supervision and Rehabilitation Fund and Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is transferred from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Correction

The department is required to undertake a study and report to the Joint Governmental Operations Committee on reorganizing and staffing the department, increasing work opportunities for inmates, and improving performance and morale of correctional officers and other staff

Commissioner William Long

Federal Court appoints a Master to oversee correction of unconstitutional conditions that were found to exist in Grubbs vs Bradley

Highland Rim School for Girls closed and Spencer Youth Center becomes coed the summer of 1983

Commissioner Ernest Pelegrine

Tennessee Correction Academy becomes operational at site of former Highland Rim School for Girls

1985 Commissioner Stephen H. Norris

Prison riots throughout system during the summer months causing millions of dollars in damage.

General Assembly holds First Extraordinary Session on Corrections in late 1985 resulting in significant changes through the Comprehensive Corrections Improvement Act of 1985: Select Oversight Committee on Corrections is established; Community Corrections programs are initiated; random drug testing of inmates begins; Sentencing Commission is established.

1987 Governor Ned R. McWherter
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Commissioner W. Jeff Reynolds&lt;br&gt;Regional concept is born; TDOC facilities fall under one of three regions, East, Middle, or West; Administrators are appointed for each region&lt;br&gt;The Division of Youth Services is abolished within DOC and the Tennessee Department of Youth Development is created; all juvenile responsibility and functions are transferred from DOC&lt;br&gt;Riverbend Maximum Security Institution becomes operational&lt;br&gt;Sentencing Reform Act of 1989 is passed by the General Assembly&lt;br&gt;State and Local Correction Reform Act of 1989 provides mechanism for the State to reimburse counties for housing felons&lt;br&gt;Wayne County Boot Camp (Special Alternative Incarceration Unit) begins operation&lt;br&gt;Tennessee Offender Management Information System (TOMIS) implemented&lt;br&gt;Northwest Correctional Center becomes operational in May&lt;br&gt;Tennessee State Penitentiary closes in June</td>
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| 1990 | West Tennessee High Security Facility becomes operational<br>1991 | Northeast Correctional Center becomes operational<br>1992 | Commissioner Christine J. Bradley<br>South Central Correctional Center becomes operational under the management of Corrections Corporation of America in March. This facility is the test case for privatization of prison operations in Tennessee<br>Wayne County Boot Camp begins accepting offenders up to 35 years of age<br>Lois M. DeBerry Special Needs Facility becomes operational in June replacing DeBerry Correctional Institute<br>1993 | Department of Correction released from Grubbs suit; required to report on health services for one year; permanent injunction entered prohibiting TDOC to house inmates in the old Tennessee State Penitentiary<br>1994 | Funding was approved to add 1,000 beds to prison system<br>The final two institutions passed their American Correctional Association accreditation audits; this made the department the first adult correctional system in the United States to have all of its programs nationally accredited<br>1995 | Governor Don Sundquist<br>Commissioner Donal Campbell<br>Major departmental reorganization; regional concept was abolished<br>1996 | Tennessee Correctional Work Center in Nashville opened (300 beds)<br>Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary celebrates 100 years<br>Victims’ Offender Information Caller Emissary (VOICE) system goes on line<br>DOC and other state departments established a presence on the World Wide Web<br>Construction began on a 1,536 medium security beds in Lauderdale County, adjacent to West Tennessee High Security Facility
Funding was approved for new prison ($54 million)

10th Anniversary of Community Corrections Program

1997

Determinate Release legislation enacted; all one and two year felons to be released to probation on their release eligibility date unless opposed by sentencing court, etc.

Public Chapter 222 created a special technical violator unit for probation offenders committed to TDOC to be placed, at the department's discretion, in an alternative sentencing program without age and program restriction

Creation of Sex Offender Treatment Board and Provider Network; DNA testing of all sex offenders initiated as required by legislation

Public Chapter 457 required applicants for out-of-state probation or parole to enroll or complete a mental health program if convicted of certain violent crimes

Legislation passed in 1997 that established the Tennessee Internet Crime Information Center (TCIC). The Center will provide online registries of sex offenders, missing children, and out-of-state parole and probation supervision

Eight institutions were consolidated into four correctional complexes, each operating under a single administrative structure

Departmental management was restructured and a program planning section created

Educational programming in institutions was restructured

TDOC entered into contract with Hardeman County to house 1,500 adult
male medium security offenders at the Hardeman County Correctional Center (HCCC) managed by Corrections Corporation of America

Facility expansions at Wayne County Boot Camp, Tennessee Prison for Women, and DeBerry Special Needs Facility were completed adding 648 new beds

Minimum security annex at Mark Luttrell Reception Center was converted from male to female offenders; the male pre-release program was transferred to Cold Creek Correctional Facility

The Tennessee Correctional Work Center was closed upon the opening of beds at the Wayne County expansion and completion of renovations at the Mark Luttrell annex

Knoxville Community Service Center and Chattanooga Community Service Center began phasing down operations for early 1998 closure due to cost of operation and availability of more cost efficient minimum custody beds at other TDOC institutions; KCSC's pre-release program was relocated to Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex and Northeast Correctional Complex

Legislation was introduced during the 100th General Assembly in 1997 to allow expanded privatization of prison operations; Legislation was deferred until the following session

Over 1,925,400 hours of community service work were completed by inmates, probationers, and community correction offenders at an estimated savings to the public of $9,146,056.00; figure represents an increase of over 17 percent above community service work performed in 1996

TDOC's drug and alcohol testing program was greatly expanded in response to federal and state efforts to combat drug abuse related crime

The General Assembly approves a bill allowing members of a victim's immediate family to witness an execution in an area separate from other witnesses or through a closed circuit television system

The Governor signs into law legislation requiring any inmate who is less than 21 years of age to undergo HIV testing during classification with or without the inmate's consent unless the inmate has been previously tested upon arrest for certain sexual offenses

Tennessee's state felon population increases to more than 21,000, including those housed in local jails.; TDOC facilities hold more than 16,000

The department contracts with Hardeman County for an additional 512 beds at the Hardeman County Correctional Facility

The department begins a medical copayment program requiring inmates to pay $3 for a self-initiated sick call visit to the health care staff

Legislation to expand privatization of prison operations is withdrawn from consideration

The legislature establishes lethal injection as the method of execution for any person, who commits an offense on or after January 1, 1999, for which such person is sentenced to the punishment of death.
Public Chapter 1028 requires all persons convicted of any felony offense on or after July 1, 1998, to provide a biological specimen for DNA analysis.

Legislation passed to transfer the duties and responsibilities relating to probation services and community grant programs from the TDOC to the Board of Paroles; The act also changes the name of the Board of Paroles to the Board of Probation and Parole.

TDOC recognized nationally for its cost savings measures in recycling; the department wins the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Partnership Award for its recycling efforts.

As a response to increasing gang activity within the prison population, the department opens the first Security Threat Group unit at Southeastern Tennessee State Regional Correctional Facility.

Tennessee’s felon population tops 22,000.

Mark Luttrell Reception Center in Memphis is fully converted to a female facility and renamed the Mark Luttrell Correctional Center.

Construction of 1,536 medium security beds adjacent to the West Tennessee High Security Facility in Henning is completed as the Cold Creek Correctional Facility (formerly Fort Pillow Prison and Farm) is closed; along with the minimum security annex at Cold Creek, the three facilities are combined under one administrative structure and renamed the West Tennessee State Penitentiary.

1999

Governor signs legislation making lethal injection, rather than electrocution, the standard method of execution for any person sentenced to death; an inmate under the sentence of death for an offense committed prior to January 1, 1999, will be executed by lethal injection unless the inmate waives his/her right to be executed by that method; if waived, the method of execution would be by electrocution.

Also becoming law is an act adding to the list of authorized witnesses for an execution; the additions may include one member of the defense counsel chosen by the condemned person and the Attorney General and Reporter, or his or her designee.

The first execution of a death row inmate in 40 years; Robert Glen Coe is the first to be executed in Tennessee by means of lethal injection for the aggravated kidnapping, aggravated rape, and murder of eight year old Carrie Ann Medlin.

Community work crews continue to provide valuable savings to local governments and non-profit organizations; annually, more than 1,000 offenders provide an average of nearly 1.4 million hours of labor for estimated savings of approximately seven million dollars to those groups.

The department installs external heart defibrillators in all facilities for the benefit of inmates, staff, and visitors; the devices are used on two inmates in the first six months and credited with helping save their lives.

The department is honored with its second Environmental Protection Agency's National Energy Partnership Award.

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Tennessee's felon population levels off.
showing a percentage decline overall; TDOC facilities hold approximately 17,000 inmates with another 5,500 in local jails.

The Tennessee Volunteer Resource Board is created by the legislature; the new board expands the functions of the prior volunteer advisory board to include parolees as well as inmates and probationers.

2001 An expansion phase is completed at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville increasing the facility to 775 beds.

Director of Pre-Release and Transition Services appointed by Commissioner of Correction to coordinate statewide pre-release programming.

Implementation of a statewide contract to provide health care for the State’s inmate population.

Completed double ceiling at South Central Correctional Facility expanding capacity by 170 beds.

2002 Whiteville Correctional Facility opens in West Tennessee creating an additional 1,536 medium security beds for housing male inmates; the facility is managed by CCA.

Tennessee's Felony Offender Information Lookup (FOIL) was launched on October 31st. The new online feature allows the public to search for an inmate's location, inmate number, and early release date.

State launches the new pre-release program Tennessee Bridges, with a 1 million dollar federal grant awarded to the Board of Probation and Parole and the Department of Correction.

Governor Phil Bredesen appoints former U.S. Attorney Quenton I. White as the new Commissioner of Correction.

2003 Phil Bredesen took office as Tennessee’s 48th Governor.

Commissioner appoints a full-time Victim’s Notification Coordinator in an effort to work more diligently with those directly impacted by crime.

Community work crews pass the 10 million hour mark; the work crew program was re-organized in 1996; in October, crews had completed more than 10 million hours of community service for city and county governments, as well as non-profits across the state, saving millions of taxpayer dollars.

Plans are finalized to expand the Morgan County Correctional Complex adding 838 beds and nearly 138 new jobs; construction is expected to begin on the project in the fall of 2004; inmates from the century old Brushy Mountain Penitentiary will be transferred to the new facility once it's complete.

2004 In September, the Middle Tennessee Correctional Complex officially changed its name to the Charles Bass Correctional Complex.

Established and dedicated a permanent memorial at the Tennessee Correction Academy to fallen correctional personnel.

In November, the Tennessee Department of Correction held the inaugural Tennessee Criminal Justice Summit.

February 2004 kicked off the Year of the Correctional Employee Campaign.
Recreation of the Division of Rehabilitative Services

2005
On September 8, 2005, Governor Bredesen appointed George M. Little, veteran correction administrator for the state, as the new Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction

Successfully delivered the department’s first Victim Awareness training workshop

Correctional Officer Wayne Morgan was fatally wounded in inmates’ escape from Roane County Courthouse

West Tennessee State Penitentiary collaborated with the University of Tennessee at Martin to initiate a satellite campus at the penitentiary training center to provide continuing education for staff and the community

Inmate work crews performed over 1,255,281 hours of community service work

Officially opened a museum at the West Tennessee State Penitentiary

Opening of two transition centers in the Nashville area; one for men and one for women

Due to the increased demand for prison beds and the need to limit excessive costs, the TDOC began building a new facility in Morgan County; this facility will replace the aging Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex

Public Chapter 168 required the department to report within 10 days the death of an inmate in a TDOC facility to the state senator and state representative representing the inmate based upon the inmate’s home address in the state prior to being placed in custody

Drug dog teams were added to help reduce the introduction of contraband into facilities

2006
Implemented two transition communities within the prisons which are designed to gradually prepare offenders to live successfully in the free world

Broke ground on the Morgan County Correctional Complex expansion

Implemented a pilot program at Northeast Correctional Complex requiring all inmates who are expiring their sentences to complete pre-release programming prior to release

June 28, Sedley Alley was put to death by lethal injection for the crime of Murder 1; he had also received a sentence of 40 years for aggravated kidnapping and rape.

Fully implemented a sexual predator and victim predictor evaluation process for all inmates

Implemented a new Workplace Harrassment training program

Began implementing a smoke-free environment at our correctional facilities

Random employee drug testing began as a measure to reduce the threat of introduction of contraband into facilities and to create a safer workplace

The average daily cost to house an inmate was $58.91 or approximately $21,502.15 annually

Creation of parole technical violator center at Wayne County Boot Camp

Criminal Justice Summits held

Implemented a smoke-free environment at each of the correctional facilities

The General Assembly approved
19

legislation requiring the TDOC to award inmates with 60 days of sentence reduction credits for successfully receiving a GED, high school diploma, college degree, or a vocational education diploma after July 1, 2006; offenders convicted of certain violent offenses would not be eligible for the credits

2007

The Tennessee Department of Correction’s Internal Affairs division began an intensive investigation in 2007 to capture escaped inmates; Operation Clean Sweep launched in 2007 with TDOC agents tracking down dozens of escapees, some had been missing for more than 25 years

Legislature amended the 2006 law to provide retroactive sentence reduction credits for inmates who received their educational or vocational diplomas prior to July 1, 2006

Effective July 1st, smoking is prohibited in facilities owned or operated by TDOC.

Public Chapter 594 established the Crooks with Guns law that created new gun-related offenses and enhanced the sentences for possession of a firearm with the intent to go armed during the commission or attempt to commit certain offenses now defined as a dangerous felony

2008

Average daily cost to house an inmate was $63.90

Legislation passed prohibiting any sex offender in the custody of the TDOC, local government, or private contractor from being assigned to work release or a work crew that permitted the offender to go out into the community with or without supervision

The Governor signed into law legislation authorizing the commissioner to enter into agreements with local governments
for the transfer of non-violent TDOC inmates to local custody to participate in pre-release programs; inmates must be recommended for parole or within one year of sentence expiration for program eligibility.

Implemented the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) by providing training to staff and enhancing the awareness on the help available to inmates.

2009
Completed the upgrade of the Morgan County Correctional Complex to a state-of-the-art, maximum security prison.
Completed the phase down and closing of the Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex.

General Assembly approved legislation requiring the TDOC and the Board of Probation and Parole to develop an individual treatment and supervision plan for each offender using a validated instrument to evaluate the individual risks and needs for each offender in custody or under supervision to enhance successful re-entry into the community.

2010
Gayle Ray was appointed Commissioner of the TDOC effective January 1 by Governor Phil Bredesen.

Governor Bredesen established the autonomous Criminal Justice Coordinating Council via Executive Order February 10th; the 13-member council is charged with collaborating with and coordinating the services of state and local government agencies and non-governmental entities in the criminal justice system to increase public safety.

Legislation passed authorizing TDOC to enter into community-based contracts with non-profit organizations for operation of transitional facilities to aid in the re-entry of offenders to the community; the department may contract for 150 beds statewide; inmates within one year of release for parole supervision or expiration of their sentence are eligible for placement; sex offenders will not be eligible.

Groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new state-of-the-art Bledsoe County Correctional Complex in Pikeville; construction is expected to be completed September 2012.

Beginning June 1st, the time for carrying out capital punishment sentences was moved from 1:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

November 2nd, Governor Bill Haslam was elected.

2011
Governor Haslam appointed Derrick D. Schofield as the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction.

Closure of the Charles Bass Correctional Complex Annex was announced.

In collaboration with several state departments and local law enforcement agencies, TDOC launched Recovery Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts.

Opened the Chattanooga Release Center for women.

2012
Legislation was passed to transfer probation, parole supervision and community corrections for adult offenders from under the Board of Probation and Parole to TDOC.

Effective July 1st, Adult Felony Community Supervision transferred from the Board of Probation and Parole to the Tennessee Department of Correction.

Began training all staff in the delivery of Customer Service.

2013
Bledsoe County Correctional Complex began moving TDOC inmates into the
new facility
Began a pilot program to implement a department policy and standard for religious diets
Created a Centralized Communications Center
Launched an automated system to process inmate trust fund accounts and allow offenders to pay fines, fees and restitutions
Created a Sergeant’s Academy to identify future leaders of TDOC
Began a Law Enforcement Command College in partnership with Tennessee State University
Began a Youthful Offender Pilot Program
Opened the Morgan County Drug Court
Partnered with the Tennessee Housing Development Association (THDA) to implement housing initiatives
Launched the Memphis Community Impact Program
Opened a women’s annex at the Bledsoe County Correctional Complex
A Probation Technical Violators Unit was opened at the Turney Center Industrial Complex Annex in Wayne County
TDOC launched the Driver’s License/State ID program to provide offenders with a driver’s license or state ID upon release from prison
TDOC Citizens’ Correctional Academy was launched to educate the public about the agency’s mission, vision, and values
Began equipping Community Supervision probation and parole officers with vehicles to assist with home visits and to increase community presence
The Charles Bass Correctional Complex was decommissioned
Began operating the Johnson City Day Reporting Center, a one-year three

2009—Morgan County Correctional Complex
2009—Brushy Mountain Correctional Complex Closes

2010—Bledsoe County Correctional Complex Groundbreaking Ceremony
phase program, to serve as an alternative to incarceration

Tony C. Parker was appointed Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction

Public Safety Act was signed into law

Mark Luttrell Transition Center opened as a facility for male residents to develop the social skills, employment skills, and self-discipline necessary to successfully reenter society

Women’s Therapeutic Residential Center opened to serve female offenders with gender-responsive treatment, educational services, career development, and reentry services focused on changing criminal behavior

Trousdale Turner Correctional Center, a time-building medium security prison, became operational; the prison is owned by Trousdale County, which contracts with a private operator

2017 Additional Day Reporting/Community Resource Centers opened in Jackson, Memphis, and Knoxville

2018 Additional Day Reporting/Community Resource Centers were opened in Nashville/Madison and Murfreesboro

A Crisis Intervention Program (CIT) was implemented for staff

2019 Veteran Units were established at Bledsoe County Correctional Complex and Turney Center Industrial Complex

As a component of TDOC’s comprehensive opioid treatment program, a recovery focused living unit was established at Morgan County Correctional Complex

TDOC and its partners launched a comprehensive Hepatitis C Online Registry to track HCV positive patients

Launched the Governor’s Volunteer Mentorship Initiative; the initiative connects degree-seeking offenders with community mentors to provide resources and support for success both while incarcerated and upon return to the community

Expanded higher education opportunities through a collaboration with the Tennessee Board of Regents and the Tennessee Higher Education Initiative to provide Tennessee College of Applied Technology courses and associate degree programs to better prepare offenders for successful reentry to the community

Signed an agreement with Tennessee State University allowing for the expansion of the agricultural sciences program; the land-sharing agreement saves taxpayers $50,000 in livestock operational costs

Created a twenty-four bed Veterans Therapeutic Community at West Tennessee State Penitentiary

2020 Created an Office of Inspector General to oversee compliance, contract administration, contract monitoring of privately managed facilities, vendor contract monitoring, and risk assessment/mitigation

Partnered with 4th Purpose Foundation and Men of Valor to develop reentry housing and support services for offenders returning to the East Tennessee area

Developed the first of its kind partnerships with THEI and Lane College to offer a bachelor’s degree program for offenders in the West Tennessee area
Partnered with Persevere to offer a coding certification program to offenders and their children, in partnership with the Department of Human Services

Tennessee Prison for Women was renamed the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center in honor of Correctional Administrator Johnson who was killed in the line of duty on August 7, 2019

2021

Reached 94% employment rate for formerly incarcerated offenders who received job training and placement through our workforce development specialists

Launched a new victims notification system called Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) which allows survivors, victims of crime, and other concerned citizens to access timely and reliable information about incarcerated offenders

Began a new partnership with Boca Bay Boat Company to employ incarcerated men at the Turney Center Industrial Complex as part of a work release program

Enhanced recruitment and retention efforts for the correctional officer series through an incentive package

Launched a pilot program specifically designed for those addicted to opioids using a combination of medication, counseling, and behavioral therapies to provide whole patient treatment for substance use disorders