



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 28, 2013

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Vice Chair
The Honorable Dennis Richardson, Co-Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: House Bill 2235-A

Co-Chairs, Co-Vice Chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, I am Daryl Borello, Administrator of Professional Development for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of HB 2235-A, and to answer any questions you may have.

What this Bill Does

HB 2235 extends the January 2, 2014 sunset to January 2, 2026 allowing DOC to continue training its officers.

Issue Addressed by this Bill

The DOC took over training for new correctional officers in 2009 and experienced the cost savings attributed to the Basic Corrections Course (BCC) program moving back to the DOC. The Basic Corrections Course has been built around an integrated statewide Field Training and Evaluation Program. Rather than having two separate processes, the DOC program conducts them side-by-side so that they are mutually-supportive. The BCC uses training that has been tailored to the state corrections system based on state and federal laws and standards.

Since 2009, DOC has conducted 44 Basic Corrections Courses with a total of 438 Correctional Officers completing or currently enrolled in the BCC. Of these 438 students, the BCC program has had only two academic failures and the feedback from the administrator, the Field Training Officers, and the students has been incredibly positive.

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) will continue to conduct periodic audits of the DOC training to ensure compliance with minimum standards. Of the approximately 330 audits conducted by DPSST since the commencement of BCC, there were only two occurrences where the class did not meet standards and, in each case, the problem was immediately corrected.

By conducting its own training, DOC can schedule trainings around staff hiring dates. This allows the department to begin training new recruits early in their careers. And, by scheduling this way, DOC has lower overtime expenses and overall reduced training costs including the additional cost savings achieved by the department's ability to take the training to the student – eliminating the expense of staff/students having to travel to a central location.

In recognizing the savings from this training, the Governor's Balanced Budget for 2013-15 reduces DOC's budget by approximately \$5 million. This figure represents savings from three-quarters of the biennium (because the current January 2, 2014 sunset is six months into the new biennium.) The actual savings per biennium is approximately \$6.5 million.

DOC appreciates the leadership provided by DPSST and looks forward to an ongoing partnership should this bill pass. The success of implementing this lasting partnership is due to Director Gabliks and his team of professionals at DPSST.

Conclusion

This legislation extends the sunset by fourteen years allowing DOC to continue the Basic Corrections Course and DPSST to continue auditing the program. DOC welcomes the committee's support of this bill.

Submitted by:

The Department of Corrections (DOC)

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