



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 3, 2013

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Senate Bill 188-1

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Chane Griggs, with the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 188 with the dash-one amendments and respond to questions.

What this Bill Does

Senate Bill 188-1 ensures certain persons committed to the legal custody of DOC and housed in Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) facilities may be eligible for work release programs and could participate in work crews.

Issue Addressed by this Bill

Research indicates employment experience is a critical component of successful transition to the community. Work release and work crew opportunities teach valuable employment skills necessary for successful transition to the community. OYA has many work programs designed for youth to obtain employment skills during incarceration. DOC and OYA recognize the need to ensure these opportunities are available to all youth in OYA facilities, when appropriate.

Currently, eligible youth offenders in OYA's legal custody receive hands-on work experience and/or opportunities for work crew experience to help them obtain employment in the community upon release. All the while, hundreds of youth who are in the legal custody of DOC, but living in OYA facilities, are bound by different laws which preclude them from participating in these opportunities.

Some of the young DOC inmates housed at OYA are serving mandatory minimum sentences (also known as Measure 11 sentences) and are not eligible for any form of work 'release' or 'leave.' Therefore, a friendly amendment to Section 2 of the bill will ensure that this work release provision will not apply to inmates whose sentences were imposed under mandatory minimum sentence statutes or any provision of law that prohibits release on any form of temporary leave from custody.

Submitted by:

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