



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

February 5, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

RE: House Bill 2235

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Mitch Morrow, Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to provide information on House Bill 2235 and to answer any questions you may have.

What the Bill Does

House Bill 2235 removes the January 2, 2014 sunset allowing DOC to continue training its officers.

Background Information

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 as two separate processes. The DOC program runs them side-by-side so that they are mutually supportive. BCC uses training tailored to the state corrections system based on state and federal laws and standards.

Since 2009, DOC has conducted 44 Basic Correction Courses, with a total of 438 Correctional Officers completed or currently enrolled in the Basic Correction Course. Of the 438 students, the BCC program has had 2 academic failures. In all the years of BCC, the feedback from the administrator, the Field Training Officers, and the students has been incredibly positive.

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, in only two occurrences did a class not meet standards and in each case the problem was immediately corrected.

By conducting its own training, DOC can schedule trainings around hiring dates, allowing the department to begin training new recruits early into their careers. Because training is scheduled this way, DOC lowers overtime expenses, reducing costs. Additional cost savings is achieved by the agency's ability to take the training to the student, eliminating the expense of statewide students having to travel. Recognizing the savings from the training, the Governor's Budget removed approximately \$5 million from DOC's 2013-15 budget. This figure represents savings

from three-quarters of the biennium. The actual savings per biennium is approximately \$6.5 million.

DOC has appreciated 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 would allow DOC to continue to the Basic Corrections Course and DPSST would continue to audit the program.

I appreciate your consideration of this bill and welcome your questions.

Submitted by:

The Department of Corrections (DOC)

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