



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority

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The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
State Capital
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2049

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

For the record, my name is Philip Cox, Oregon Youth Authority Assistant Director of Community Services. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 2049, a bill filed at the request of the Governor on behalf of OYA. House Bill 2049 provides OYA juvenile community supervision officers the authority to take into custody OYA parole youth offenders when there is an active warrant issued by the superintendent of an OYA youth correctional facility.

Current statute provides OYA juvenile community supervision officers the ability to take youth offenders on probation into custody when authorized by a juvenile court. However, statute does not provide similar authority to take into custody youth offenders on OYA parole. Currently only law enforcement officers may apprehend and deliver OYA parolees to juvenile detention centers or adult jails.

This creates an unnecessary workload for law enforcement agencies, which could efficiently and effectively be handled by OYA juvenile community supervision staff. House Bill 2049 allows for the most efficient use of resources in ensuring public safety and accountability by specifically authorizing agency staff to take parolees into custody on an OYA warrant for parole violation.

This bill has no impact on the current policies or training of OYA officers since they currently are given authority by juvenile courts to take OYA probation youth offenders into custody. There is no negative fiscal impact from this bill and, as I indicated earlier, it creates public safety efficiencies that can result in cost savings to local law enforcement resources. Again, I would reiterate that House Bill 2049 only provides custody authority to OYA staff on warrants issued by OYA youth correctional facility superintendents for violating conditions of parole.

Mr. Chair, I would be pleased to answer any questions that you or Committee members might have.



**Oregon Youth Authority
2013 Legislative Session
House Bill 2049
Youth Probation and Parole Program**

What the Measure Does	The proposed measure authorizes designated Oregon Youth Authority staff to take an OYA parole violator with an outstanding warrant issued by OYA into custody and transport the violator to a detention facility.
Background	<p>Current statutory language allows OYA to issue a warrant on parole youth offenders who are absent from their designated placement or are in violation of parole conditions. However, there is no authority within current statute for OYA staff to take these youth offenders into custody based on this warrant.</p> <p>Statutory language designates that any peace officer may take absentee or parole violators into custody and transport them to a detention facility. OYA juvenile probation and parole officers (JPPOs) and juvenile probation and parole assistants (JPPAs) are not defined as peace officers.</p> <p>There are a number of circumstances where parole youth offenders with an outstanding OYA-issued warrant cooperatively return to placement or admit to the violation of parole. Under the current statute, JPPOs must contact law enforcement agencies to take these youth offenders into custody and transport them to a detention facility. It is an unnecessary use of law enforcement resources to require law enforcement officers to transport a cooperative and compliant youth offender to a detention facility that may be in a different city and/or county jurisdiction.</p> <p>Currently, if law enforcement agencies are not able to enact custody and transport the youth to a detention facility, the youth is maintained in the community until a preliminary revocation hearing can be scheduled and held. This also results in an unnecessary use of community and court resources. Communities must hold the youth offender until after the hearing, when the warrant is canceled and OYA staff can enact custody to transport the youth offender to the designated placement.</p>
Summary	This Legislative Concept adds statutory language to designate an employee of OYA who is classified as a JPPO or a JPPA as having the authority to take an OYA parole violator with a warrant issued by OYA into custody and deliver the violator to a detention facility.
Fiscal Impact	There is no fiscal impact.
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