



Issue Brief – 2013 Session

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

HB 2235 – Allows DOC to Continue to Train their Corrections Officers

Overview

Corrections officers face different challenges than other law enforcement officers. To prepare officers for their unique situation, DOC has conducted its own training since the passage of 2009's HB 3199, rather than providing the training through DPSST.

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) conducts periodic audits of the DOC training to ensure compliance with minimum standards. The original legislation required a report to the legislature in 2011 on the efficacy of DOC training. In that report, DOC met minimum requirements in all areas and exceeded minimum state requirements in several areas. DOC's authority to train its officers sunsets on January 2, 2014

Corrections Officer Training Background

The DOC Basic Corrections Course (BCC) is built around a statewide Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP). Rather than considering basic training and field training as two distinct processes, the DOC program runs them side-by-side so that they are mutually supportive.

BCC uses training tailored to the state corrections officer based on state and federal laws and standards. This saves time and money as the correctional officers going through BCC receive training that is completely relevant to their positions within the state correctional system.

By conducting its own training, DOC can schedule trainings around hiring dates, allowing the department to begin training new recruits their first day of employment. Because training happens upfront, DOC does not need to pull a new officer from their post and fill that post with overtime staff. Less overtime results in a significant cost savings to the agency. When using DPSST for training, DOC

would sometimes have to wait weeks for available space in the next scheduled training.

Effect of the Legislation

This legislation would allow DOC to continue to give specialized training for its own employees. DPSST would continue to certify the efficacy of this training. Without this legislation, DOC would revert to prior training methods and would require an *additional \$6.8 million* per biennium from the General Fund. ■

The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.



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