



# Issue Brief – 2013 Session

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## HB 2236 – Extends DOC Ability to House Offenders in Public Beds in Other States

### Overview

In the case of an emergency, the Oregon Department of Corrections has the option to alleviate overcrowding by housing offenders in correctional institutions in other states. To house Oregon inmates, these institutions must be publically run. However, this option sunsets January 2, 2014.

While Oregon has not used out of state beds under this provision since 1997, this policy offers a safety valve in case of an unforeseen event that rapidly increases the number of offenders that must be housed.

DOC's mission is to hold offenders accountable for their actions and reduce the risk of future criminal behavior. It is the belief of the department that the best way to uphold our mission is to keep offenders inside Oregon institutions. However, the department needs the authority to house offenders outside the state in case of sentencing changes, a natural disaster, or some other unforeseen event.

### History

In 2001, the legislature authorized DOC to contract for out of state prison beds with a sunset in December 2009. HB 2292 (2009) extended the sunset four years to January 2014 with only two No votes.

This bill would not affect reciprocity agreements that Oregon has used with other states.

### Effect of the Legislation

This legislation will extend the sunset four years once again like HB 2292 (2009). There is no fiscal impact. ■

**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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