



Issue Brief – 2013 Session

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

SB 187 – Allows DOC Sufficient Time to Develop Release Plan for Young Offenders

Overview

The Department of Corrections is required by law to develop and send a proposed release plan to the court if, after a second look hearing, the court determines that conditional release is the appropriate disposition for an eligible offender. As a part of the release planning process, the department investigates and provides the court with information for court's consideration, including but not limited to information regarding the proposed residence of the offender following release, needed treatment and support services, and recommended release conditions.

Under current law, the Department of Corrections is required to send the proposed release plan to the court within 45 days *of the date of the second look hearing*, regardless of when the Department receives the court's order directing it to prepare the proposed release plan. Increasingly, however, courts either fail to issue or fail to send to the department an order directing the department to prepare a proposed release plan. This results in an insufficient amount of time for the department to prepare and submit a solid and viable proposed release plan with in the required 45 days.

This legislation will allow the Department of Corrections to submit the proposed release plan to the court within 45 days *after receipt of the court's direction to prepare the plan*. This change will permit the department time to complete the required release planning in a meaningful way and to prepare and submit to the courts proposed release plans for offenders being released into the community on second look conditional release.

Effect of the Legislation

The statutory change allowing the department to submit the proposed release plan to the court within 45 days after receipt of the court's direction to prepare the release plan accomplishes several important goals. The change will permit the department time to engage in purposeful release planning and to prepare and submit to the courts proposed release plans for offenders for whom the court has determined that conditional release is appropriate. This in turn will result in offenders having a more meaningful and complete release plan, furthering their rehabilitation and reform. The community corrections agency responsible for supervising the offender while on conditional release will be better prepared, furthering their ability to supervise the offender, investigate appropriate housing and support services that may be available for the offender, and protect public safety. Collectively these improvements in the process will promote better outcomes for successful reintegration of offenders into our communities while on second look conditional release. ■

**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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