

House Judiciary Committee

February 3, 2014

HB 4035

As a former Chief of Police in Florence, Oregon and a former Assistant Sheriff in a California county, I had local corrections facilities in both positions which I was responsible. I offer the following as input for your consideration in regard to HB 4035.

I do not see the need to require Corrections Officers with CHL's to be statutorily required to have their firearms stored in their locked vehicles in a locked contain as well when the regular citizen with a CHL would not be required to do the same. Why treat correctional law enforcement officers of our state less than it does citizens of our state?

The types of people visiting inmates in the state's prisons, county jails, or municipal jails include the criminal element as well. This is unfortunately a fact of life. The corrections officers are at risk when they leave the facility unarmed to walk to their cars or when they leave their cars and walk to the facility unarmed under this statute.

All jails have gun lockers for people to store their firearms when they enter jail or prison facilities. In fact most correctional facilities provide firearms to their officers during prisoner transports. They have to store them securely. Why not mandate all jails and prisons in the state provide these gun lockers in sufficient quantity for corrections officers who are employees while they are at work inside the secure portions of the custodial facilities?

I strongly applaud the legislature wanting to make sure Corrections Officers have the ability to protect themselves. What is proposed, however, is not consistent with what is required for a citizen with a CHL and it is not necessary to allowing them to protect themselves. This bill could be amended to make the fix complete as sought.

Thank you for your considerations.

Maurice K. Sanders