



# Legislative Testimony

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 10, 2015

The Honorable Diane Rosenbaum, Chair  
House Redistricting Committee

### **RE: SB 331**

Chair Rosenbaum and members of the Senate Committee on Rules, I am Heidi Steward, Assistant Director of the Offender Management and Rehabilitation division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am providing information on the anticipated impacts of SB 331 as it relates to the DOC.

### **What this Bill Does**

SB 331 requires the Department to adopt an electronic filing system to track the following items on each inmate:

- Last known address
- Race and ethnicity
- Age

On the federal decennial census year, SB 331 requires DOC to send these three pieces of information to the Secretary of State using a unique identifier for each inmate and include the address of the facility in which the inmate is incarcerated. The unique identifier cannot indicate any identification number otherwise used for the inmate or allow anyone outside DOC to associate an address to an inmate.

### **Concerns Raised by this Bill**

In order to report information on all inmates in the system on a 10 year cycle, the Department would have to gather last known addresses on an on-going basis at Intake. In most cases, information gathered for last known address would occur through inmates self-reporting. The department simply cannot handle the volume of work it would take to verify every address provided by each inmate. In addition, many inmates were transient and are not able to report a physical address; addresses provided on DMV reports may be long outdated if available; and addresses that are noted on police reports are not able to be verified.

For new inmates entering DOC custody, determining and recording residency would be part of the normal intake process. However, to comply with the data requirements of this bill, DOC will have to determine last know residence information for inmates in our existing population as well. We would likely be able to complete this task within our existing workforce, but it would divert counseling staff from case management work.

### **Background Information**

Currently, when inmates are admitted to the custody of the Department of Corrections, counselors at Intake verify information only to the level of county of release as determined by ORS 144.102(6)(a), which requires that inmates are released to the county where they were living when they committed their crime, rather than when they were admitted to DOC custody.

For example, if an inmate is living in Marion County, commits a crime in Linn County, then moves to Multnomah County prior to arrest and conviction, DOC records their county for release as Marion County.

This information is collected through interviews with the inmate, review of DMV records, police reports and other sources that may also list the inmate's address at the time of arrest.

### **Fiscal Impact**

This bill does have a fiscal impact in creating the electronic filing system needed to carry out the requirements of SB 331.

*Submitted by:*

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