



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Senate Bill 316

Chair Prozanski and members of the Committee, I am Leonard Williamson, Inspector General for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify on SB 316, and provide information as it relates to the department.

What the Bill Does:

SB 316 relates to the disclosure of contents from various communication devices by prohibiting the service provider from disclosing, or the public body from obtaining, the contents of communication except in certain circumstances. It establishes the requirement to obtain a warrant and/or provide notice to the person involved. This bill also requires a public body to issue an annual report to the Legislative Assembly if the public body requests or obtains contents of communication or certain other information.

Issues Created for DOC by this Bill:

This concept prohibits service providers from disclosing contents of communication and certain other information except in certain circumstances. For DOC, such providers could include its inmate phone service provider, Telmate, as well as Information Technology Services, and Verizon, which could hinder the department's ability to obtain information from items such as staff cell phones and computers, as well as inmate electronic messaging devices, video calls, and phone calls. It is necessary for DOC to be able to access the contents of these types of electronic communications for the safety and security of our facilities, to combat inmate extortion, and, in some cases, to prevent criminal activity. Access to this content is vital in our ability to investigate potential misconduct, and to hold both inmates and staff accountable.

Requested Action:

For the reasons mentioned above, the Department of Corrections recommends that SB 316 be amended to carve out an exception for the department.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

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