

A Working Oregon is a Safer Oregon

HB 3437 Certificate of Good Standing

Finding employment after being incarcerated can be an important step in former inmates reintegration into the community. A Certificate of Good Standing will serve as one tool in reducing the chances a person will re-offend and can be a useful instrument in the toolbox of wrap-around services used to reduce the risk of re-offense.

Removing Barriers

According to the Governor's Reentry Council, 14,000 people are currently incarcerated in Oregon; 93% will someday be released, which is over 13,000 people. National statistics indicate that 70% (over 9,000) of this population will remain unemployed. Three key barriers responsible for high unemployment amongst this demographic are:

- A high bar to employment eligibility
- Difficulty in attaining state licenses
- General reluctance to hire people with criminal records

People with criminal records experience difficulty securing employment. The obstacles rehabilitated individuals face when seeking employment can be insurmountable.

Positive Outcomes for Oregon

The Marion County Reentry Initiative (MCRI) has implemented several programs in an effort to reduce recidivism. Through these efforts recidivism rates have decreased from 36% to 14% since 2011.

- The Reach-In Program helps individuals obtain Oregon I.D. cards or Driver's Licenses before release
- MCRI works with over 100 employers to help people enter the workforce after incarceration
- The De Muniz Resource Center provides direct services to those formerly incarcerated, who are working to build a successful life in our community

A Certificate of Good Standing will provide employers a level of liability protection as well as legal confirmation that potential employees have served all conditions of their sentences and have not reoffended. House Bill 3437 is a step toward breaking down the barriers rehabilitated individuals face as they reintegrate into their communities.