



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 15, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

RE: House Bill 2322 -2

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Kim Brockamp, Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of the dash-two amendments to HB 2322, and to answer any questions.

What the Bill Does:

As drafted, the dash-two amendments to HB 2322 would establish a task force on the garnishment of inmate property. The task force will be charged with studying issues related to the garnishment of DOC inmate property for various reasons such as judgments resulting from civil actions for assault or battery against department employees, victim restitution judgments, child support judgments, and inmate reentry savings accounts.

Background Information:

The dash-two amendments were drafted to replace HB 2761, which would require DOC to garnish a portion of an inmate's wages if the department receives a notice of judgment where money has been awarded to a department employee as a result of an inmate assaulting that employee. DOC previously testified on HB 2761 that, while the department philosophically agrees with the concept, we do not feel it is DOC's responsibility to decide that restitution to staff takes precedent over victim restitution (from the crimes of conviction), child support, or court fees and fines. We have been in ongoing conversations with our public safety partners and labor organizations about these issues, and the dash-two amendments will allow these discussions to continue.

Requested Action:

Passage of HB 2322 with the dash-two amendments will allow further collaboration with our public safety partners and labor organizations, resulting in a better understanding of the DOC's current collection processes, and the exploration of recommendations for future legislation. For the reasons explained above, DOC asks this committee to vote HB 2322 with the dash-two amendments out of committee with a 'do pass' recommendation.

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

Submitted by:

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