

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/14/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 05/14

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Burdick, Gelser, Kruse, Prozanski, Thatcher

Prepared By: Jeff Rhoades, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows authorized staff member of Department of Corrections (DOC), State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision and Oregon Corrections Enterprises assigned to work in department building to store personal handgun and ammunition in vehicle if certain conditions are met. Defines “vehicle” to include motorcycle, passenger car, van or truck, as well as soft top convertible and jeep. Provides that department does not have duty to inspect or secure vehicles or parking areas, or determine staff compliance with law. Directs department to adopt written policies or rules to regulate possession and storage of personal handgun and ammunition.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Substance of the bill
- Why the measure is needed
- Current practices for storing firearms in department buildings

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Section 2, chapter 88 of Oregon Laws 2014 currently allows a corrections officer employed by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to possess a firearm in the officer’s personal vehicle when the vehicle is parked in a department parking lot if the officer: 1) is present at a public building occupied by the department; 2) has a valid concealed handgun license; and 3) has secured the firearm in a closed and locked trunk, glove compartment, center console or other container, and the key is not inserted into the lock, if the trunk, glove compartment, center console or other container locks with a key.

House Bill 2424 A simultaneously expands the number of people who may take advantage of this law and restricts the method of storage that a person may employ to keep a firearm in a personal vehicle on DOC premises. The bill allows for all authorized staff to store firearms in their personal vehicle. However, those staff members must store the firearm in a container specifically designed for the storage of firearms inside a vehicle. The bill also specifies that DOC is not responsible for patrolling, inspecting or securing any parking lot where firearms may be stored in vehicles. Additionally, House Bill 2424 A provides that DOC is not required to investigate or confirm staff member’s compliance with Section 2, chapter 88 of Oregon Laws 2014.