



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 1, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: House Bill 2250

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Heidi Steward, Assistant Director of the Offender Management and Rehabilitation Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of HB 2250.

What this Bill Does

HB 2250 amends existing statute to return timelines for submission of proposed release plans and revised plans to the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision (BOPPPS) to the timelines in state law prior to 2013.

Background Information

Before HB 3194 (2013), DOC's statutorily-imposed timelines for submitting proposed and revised release plans to BOPPPS were no later than 60 days and 10 days, respectively, prior to an individual's release from DOC custody. Revisions to ORS 144.096 were included in HB 3194 (2013), which changed the timelines for DOC to submit proposed and revised release plans to the BOPPPS to no later than 75 days and 25 days to release, respectively. The 2013 legislation also included language to revert the timelines back to 60 days and 10 days, respectively, on July 1, 2023.

Managing release plans to the 75 and 25 day timelines has become increasingly difficult with regard to identifying, approving, and securing appropriate housing at release. Community corrections agencies are responsible to investigate, then approve or deny proposed housing options. When no viable housing options are found, the community corrections agency has to determine whether the inmate qualifies for subsidized housing or whether other types of community beds are available.

Accomplishing this and reporting decisions back to DOC within these timelines has proven to be very challenging.

Issues Addressed by the Bill:

House Bill 2250 will revert release plan submission timelines to 60 days for proposed plans and 10 days for revised plans prior to the July 1, 2023, statutory reversion.

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Requested Action:

For the reasons explained above, the department asks this committee to vote HB 2250 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:

Oregon Department of Corrections

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