

Senate Committee on Judiciary:

In opposition as a frivolous program in a time we need to restrain expenditures.

SB 692 appropriates General Funds to the Metropolitan Public Defender Services a nonprofit providing public defender services for a rural county for a pre-entry pilot program. Adds to the cost of government and use of limited or borrowed funds.

### **Personal Choice and Responsibility**

138.480 Public Defense Services Commission to provide representation for prisoner in proceeding before appellate court.

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

Appropriates an amount for the Metropolitan Public Defender Services to establish a re-entry pilot program in a rural county public defender services office. The Public Defense Services Commission feeds through the funds to the Metropolitan Public Defender Services and studies the results of the pre-entry pilot program.

### **Limited Government**

Metropolitan Public Defender Services is a private nonprofit corporation established by the Multnomah Bar Association to help Portland Municipal Court deal with local public defense required for counties to provide. Starting with a federal grant it has grown to 60 attorneys, 140 staff at three locations. They don't lack for funds.

### **Local Control**

There is no definition of pre-entry pilot program. Texas has a pre-entry program preparing people for prison life, but if that's the program, why a rural county? There would be more public benefit to a re-entry program back into society.

Donna Bleiler