



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Senate Bill 844

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Elizabeth Craig, Communications Administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in regards to Senate Bill (SB) 844.

What the Bill Does:

SB 844 authorizes DOC to collect a portion of certain inmate moneys for a transitional fund and payment of court-ordered financial obligations.

Background:

Following the 2015 Legislative Session, DOC established, chaired, and staffed the Inmate Financial Accountability Workgroup. The Workgroup included representatives from DOC, the Association of Oregon Corrections Employees (AOCE), the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the Oregon District Attorneys Association, crime victim advocates, community corrections, Oregon Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE), the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Oregon Judicial Department, and the Oregon Department of Justice.

The Workgroup met throughout 2016 to better understand the mechanics of inmate moneys, how DOC's current trust accounting system works, and to develop recommendations for how DOC could collect a portion of inmate moneys to go toward court-ordered financial obligations.

Recognizing a variety of interests and positions regarding these issues, DOC committed to the conversation while keeping three primary components in mind: accountability, safety and security, and successful transition and re-entry.

What the Bill Does:

SB 844 reflects the recommendations of the Workgroup. It will allow DOC to collect money from inmate trust account deposits for obligations such as victim's restitution, compensatory fines and fees, and court fines and fees. It will also allow DOC to establish a protected re-entry savings account for each adult in custody. DOC would collect the following from each deposit into an inmate's trust account:

- 10 percent for court-ordered obligations or financial obligations imposed in a criminal action that are collected by the court; and

- 5 percent for re-entry savings (up to \$500).
 - Once re-entry savings reaches \$500, DOC would collect:
 - 15 percent for court-ordered obligations.
 - If no other debt owed, re-entry deposits become optional in 5 percent increments.

SB 844 is the result of strong collaboration of many public safety stakeholders. It places an emphasis on accountability and transition – both of which are critical to the mission of DOC.

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

Submitted by:

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