



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 27, 2017

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: House Bill 2250A

Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate 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 2250A.

What this Bill Does

HB 2250A directs DOC, in consultation with the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision (BOPPPS), to adopt rules to establish deadlines by which the department must submit proposed and revised inmate release plans to the BOPPPS.

Background Information

Before HB 3194 (2013), DOC's statutorily-imposed timelines for submitting release plans to BOPPPS were no later than 60 days for proposed release plans and 10 days for revised release plans 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 for field investigations, then approving or denying 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 2250A removes the provisions that specify the deadlines by which proposed and revised release plans must be submitted and allow DOC and BOPPPS to modify deadlines through rulemaking.

Requested Action:

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