



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

May 8, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Senate Bill 14

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, for the record, I am Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director of the Community Corrections Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of SB 14, and answer any questions.

What the Bill Does:

Senate Bill 14 modifies DOC's requirement to review counties' compliance with community corrections intergovernmental agreements from annually to biennially.

Background Information:

DOC is the mechanism through which the Legislature allocates community corrections grant-in-aid funding to the counties for the supervision, sanctions, and services provided to felony probation, local control, parole, and post-prison offenders. In addition, the Legislature has tasked DOC with ensuring the money is utilized in accordance with statute, administrative rule, and intergovernmental agreements. DOC has utilized different approaches including site visits, questionnaires, document and outcomes reviews, combined with training and technical assistance to ensure accountability.

Issues Addressed by the Bill:

Reviewing all 36 counties' compliance every year is extremely time intensive and redundant. The first year review is typically too soon to see how monies are being spent, as counties have not had an opportunity to develop new programs and initiatives before the first review may begin. In addition, staffing within DOC for this function is limited, thus resulting in many counties not being reviewed in a timely manner. Completing reviews once a biennium would allow DOC to develop a more thorough and helpful review, which would still address the Legislature's intent that there be accountability and oversight to the grant-in-aid dollars.

Requested Action:

For the reasons stated above, DOC supports SB 14, and encourages the committee to vote SB 14 out of committee with a do pass recommendation.

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

Submitted by:

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