



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

May 22, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: Senate Bill 690

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 share information related to SB 690.

What the Bill Does:

SB 690 establishes procedures for petitioning for and issuing a Certificate of Good Standing (CGS). It also creates a violation offense if a person knowingly presents a revoked or invalid certificate, punishable by a maximum \$1,000 fine. Lastly, SB 690 provides that in certain negligence actions, a valid certificate creates rebuttable presumption that an employer was not negligent.

Background Information:

The department is well aware of many of the challenges adults in custody face while transitioning back into the community, including difficulty finding housing and employment, and the stigma associated with having been convicted of a felony. As an agency, we are generally supportive of any efforts that work to mitigate these challenges for those on parole, post-prison supervision, and probation.

Issues Addressed by the Bill:

It is our understanding that amendments are being drafted that will narrow the scope of eligibility for a certificate, correct technical conflicts within the bill, and provide a sunset. These amendments will create a more specific and workable approach to petitioning for and receiving a certificate. Recognizing positive outcomes is important and has been proven to impact long term behavior. For these reasons, DOC appreciates the intent of this bill.

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

Submitted by:

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