



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 17, 2019

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Rules

Re: House Bill 2492

Chair Holvey and members of the committee, I am Heidi Steward, Assistant Director of the Correctional Services Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to provide information on the anticipated impacts of HB 2492 as it relates to DOC and answer any questions.

What the Bill Does:

HB 2492 would require the department to adopt an electronic filing system to track the following items on each adult in custody (AIC):

- Last known address, if the address is readily known or available to the AIC;
- Race and ethnicity; and
- Age (if AIC is over the age of 18).

On the federal decennial census year, HB 2492 would require DOC to send these three pieces of information to the Secretary of State using a unique identifier for each individual and include the facility address where the AIC is incarcerated. The unique identifier cannot indicate any identification number otherwise used for the AIC or allow anyone outside DOC to associate an address to the individual.

Background Information:

Currently, when individuals are admitted to DOC custody, the Department's Offender Information and Sentence Computation staff enter the county of conviction based on the sentencing judgment(s) for which the individual came to prison.

As part of release planning (approximately four to six months pre-release), DOC Release Counselors refer to Oregon Revised Statute 144.102(7)(a) for individuals releasing to post-prison supervision, or 144.270(6)(a) for individuals being paroled, to determine county of release. These statutes require the release of AICs to the county of residence when their crime was committed, rather than when admitted to DOC custody.

For example, if an AIC is living in Marion County, commits a crime in Linn County, and moves to Multnomah County prior to arrest and conviction, DOC records Marion County as the county of release.

This information is collected through interviews with the AICs and review of DMV records, police reports, and other sources that may also list the AIC's address at the time of arrest.

DOC Impacts and Concerns:

To report information on all AICs in the system on a 10-year cycle would require the department to gather last known addresses at Intake. In most cases, this would occur through self-reporting. The volume of work necessary to verify every address provided would be unmanageable. In addition, the majority of AICs may be unable to report a known address. Many individuals were transient or did not have a constant address prior to admission. Another obstacle is we are unable to verify addresses provided on police reports, and addresses provided through DMV or other agencies is often outdated.

Currently, there is not a process in place to gather someone's last known address. For individuals entering DOC custody, determining and recording the last known address would increase the workload during the intake process. However, to comply with the data requirements of this bill, it is unknown if DOC will have to determine last known residence information for our existing population as well. If this is assumed, we would need temporary or limited-duration staff to take on these duties, and ensure we do not divert counseling staff from case management work.

Fiscal Impact

HB 2492 would have a fiscal impact to create an electronic filing system and hire additional staff needed to carry out the bill's requirements.

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

Submitted by:

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