From the desk of Senator Michael Dembrow

PROMOTING SAFETY AND SUCCESS

Reducing barriers for people who have completed their prison sentence.



What does HB 2172B do?

HB 2172B expands the ability of people who have served their prison sentence to earn a reduction in their time on supervision. This program, called Earned Discharge, creates incentives and ensures people are only supervised for as long as necessary. It rewards people who are successful and holds accountable those who are not.

HB 2172B increases eligibility for people on post-prison supervision to earn a reduction in their sentence for compliance with supervision conditions. The bill expands eligibility to two crimes – second degree assault and second degree robbery. This bill impacts only the period of post-prison supervision, which comes *after* the person has served their full prison sentence. HB 2172B also requires supervision officers to notify the person on supervision of their eligibility for earned time off of their post-prison supervision sentence and to create standards for criteria to earn that reduction.

Why HB 2172B?

The <u>Transforming Justice Coalition</u>, a group that centered the people most impacted by over-policing and over incarceration in their policy development, prioritized these reforms in HB2002. Since HB 2172 addressed the issues of earned discharge for people after they serve their prison sentence already, it was ultimately decided that these provisions should be added to HB 2172 rather than stay in HB 2002.

Promoting safety and success by reducing barriers for people who have completed their prison sentence.

Why is this important?

Mandatory minimums and one-size-fits-all approaches do not work in sentencing or in post-prison supervision. Each individual should be reviewed based on the specific facts of the case. Second degree robbery and assault, the two crimes added to HB 2172A significantly drive racial and gender disparities in our prisons. Oregon has the opportunity to make our public safety system more equitable, and passing HB 2172B moves us towards this important goal.

HB 2172B provides an important "carrot" for people returning home from prison and can also help reduce the caseloads of supervision officers so they can focus on people who are struggling to comply with their conditions of post-prison supervision. Our communities are safer when people have incentives to succeed and clear information about how they can do that. HB 2172B is an important step in the right direction.

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