

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Department of Corrections Braille Transcription and Certification Program

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Evans

On March 16th, the Public Safety Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Department of Corrections to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, in the amount of \$900,000 to begin a braille transcription and certification program.

The Department would use the grant funding to begin this braille program through the American Printing House National Prison Braille Network, which currently operates in 31 states. This program provides the standards, curriculum, and software needed for prisons to establish a braille program. The Network also provides feedback, grading and certification for participating adults in custody, and offers an apprenticeship program upon release from custody.

Oregon has few certified transcribers, and Willamette Education Service District currently contracts with out-of-state prisons to meet transcription needs for all of Oregon's school textbooks. There is no state match required for this grant opportunity. If awarded the Department will return to the legislature for additional federal funds expenditure limitation.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.