

Submitter: Douglas Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Greetings, I am in legislative district #33 and have lived in the sylvan/Highlands neighborhood near The Arboretum since 1999. I am retired from state and county government having served both agencies in my job as an Adult Parole and Probation Officer. As such, I have extensive knowledge about the issues regarding houselessness.

Recriminalizing drugs is a good first step, but please be aware that 90% of those cited won't show up for Court. Then a warrant for their arrest will need to be issued. When they are arrested they cannot be matrix released from jail prior to their arraignment. If they are given a Court date, then 90% of these folks will not show for their Court hearing. Then another warrant will need to be issued. When they are picked up on the Warrant they cannot be released again, otherwise this process of release followed by warrant will go on ad infinitum. This has been an ongoing problem for our Criminal Justice system.

What I propose for way to handle this problem is to set up some kind of lightning Court processing system where the defendant is held in custody while their arraignment and subsequent Court hearing would happen in a very short period of time. If convicted, the offender would be granted credit for time served on their imposed sentence. I would further recommend that the Judge impose the maximum sentence of 30 days in jail and then suspend said sentence and place the defendant on formal, supervised probation. Then the probation officer could arrest and detain the offender and administer a structured sanction after any significant violation of probation has occurred. This helps end the endless cycle of catch and release, followed by warrant that currently exists. After their arrest and sanction it is again paramount that the offender not be matrix released. Otherwise the process is undermined. I know all of this will cost a lot of money but the alternative is the present lawless, chaotic situation will continue to deteriorate to the point that nobody in their right mind would like to live and work in Portland, much less visit it. If Portland goes down the drain, then the whole state goes down the drain as well. Time is of the essence.

Thank your time and attention to this matter.

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