



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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November 18, 2025

The Honorable Senator Khanh Pham, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Pham, Co-Chair Nathanson, and Members of the Committee,

Introduction

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) will be working to obtain two additional Merchant Identification Numbers (MIDs) to enhance payment processing for Public Information Requests (PIRs) and Cottage Industry sales, thereby improving transparency, efficiency, and sustainability. Currently, DOC uses one MID for processing payments through a web-based store front to Adults in Custody participating in the Learning Entrepreneurship, Arts, and Production (LEAP) program. The addition of two new MIDs will ensure revenue from different programs flows into appropriate treasury accounts, maintaining financial integrity.

Background Information

GovQA-Public Information Requests (PIRs)

Public Information Requests allow public access to government records and are traditionally paper based. DOC is modernizing this process with digital tools like the GovQA platform which includes a point-of-sale system for secure electronic payments, reducing delays and administrative barriers, especially for BIPOC communities. The platform will also help bridge the digital divide across Oregon communities, enabling broader participation and transparency.

In addition, the capacity to track the data on request methods, timelines, costs, and fulfillment rates supports ongoing monitoring of equity outcomes. Strategic investment in digital capacity—especially at rural and understaffed facilities—will help ensure consistent service quality statewide.

Cottage Industries

Cottage Industries offer institution work programs (IWPs) for adult in custody (AIC) participants, providing vocational training and generating revenue reinvested into the programs. Currently,

there are 18 active cottage industry programs across Oregon; some examples include cosmetology, automotive repair, coffee carts, construction technology, as well as wood and metal creative arts.

Payment and logistical constraints currently limit these programs' efficiency. Expanding payment options and establishing a web presence will improve operations.

Financial and Security Considerations

The new MIDs will not affect customer costs, as fees are covered by self-sustaining programs. Payments will be processed via a secure web platform, not at the point of sale, ensuring security.

Action Requested

DOC requests JLCIMT acknowledge receipt of this letter/report as DOC works through the process of obtaining **two additional Merchant Identification Numbers (MIDs)** to facilitate electronic payments for:

1. GovQA-Public Information Requests (PIRs)
2. Cottage Industry sales

Conclusion

The two additional MIDs will significantly enhance DOC's payment processing capabilities, improving efficiency, transparency, and service delivery for both the public and internal programs. This initiative aligns with DOC's ongoing efforts to modernize operations.