ANALYSIS

Item 11: Board of Parole and Post-Prision Supervision
Sex Offender Notification Leveling

Analyst: Emily Coates

Request: Acknowledge receipt of a report on Sex Offender Notification Leveling.

Analysis: The Sex Offender Notification Leveling (SONL) system classifies registrants based on their risk to reoffend sexually and determines the level of public notification required. HB 2320 (2015) transferred responsibility for completing sex offender risk assessments from the Department of Corrections to the Board of Parole and Post-Prision Supervision (BPPPS). At that time, approximately 20,000 individuals were on the sex offender registry, and the Board began working through the registry, with an initial deadline to complete all assessments by December 2018. However, the backlog had grown to approximately 30,000 registrants based on updated data, and SB 767 (2017) extended the deadline to December 2022. HB 2045 (2019) further extended the deadline to December 2026.

With the statutory deadline pending, HB 5027 (2025) provided the Board nine permanent full-time positions (7.92 FTE) with the new goal of completing the backlog by June 30, 2030, and included the following budget note:

Sex Offender Notification Leveling Backlog
The Board is directed to report to the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means no later than January 2026 on the status of the backlog. The report must provide an update on the status of recruitment, training, and retention of related positions, efforts taken to reduce the backlog and its current status, and an updated projected timeline to complete this work.

The Board reports that all nine positions were hired by October 2025, are currently going through a six-month comprehensive training program, and are anticipated to begin conducting assessments by March 2026. BPPPS reports that the Board adopted a new evidence-based targeted assessment methodology that incorporates multiple Static-99R constructs in efforts to complete the backlog by June 30, 2030. As of December 2025, the registry includes 34,368 offenders, with 16,665 classified registrants, and 17,703 registrants remaining to be classified. Of the remaining amount, 6,002 individuals are deceased, or no longer live, work or go to school in Oregon; 2,798 are juvenile adjudication registrants; and 8,903 individuals are responsibility of the Board, with a legislatively required deadline of December 1, 2026.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of the report.

Request: Report on the status of the backlog of registered sex offenders (registrants) with historic convictions who have not been classified into a risk level under the Sex Offender Notification Level (SONL) Program.

Recommendation: Acknowledge receipt of the report.

Discussion: House Bill 5027 (2025) was accompanied by a budget note directing the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision (the Board) to, no later than January 2026, provide an update on the status of recruitment, training, and retention of SONL positions; efforts taken to reduce the SONL backlog and its current status; and an updated projected timeline to complete the work. The 2025 Legislature subsequently granted the Board nine additional positions to address the SONL backlog. The Board promptly launched a comprehensive, statewide recruitment effort to hire one Manager, two Hearing Officers, and six Board Assessment Specialists. All nine positions were filled as of October 6, 2025, and are currently undergoing staff training.

SONL staff training, which the Board expects to be completed by March 2026, covers holistic agency operations as well as specifics of the SONL program. Training includes in-depth instruction on the standardized Static-99R risk assessment methodology and procedures, instruction on the newly implemented Targeted Assessment methodology and procedures, and essential internal data management protocols. Upon completion of this training, SONL staff will be able to use the Targeted Assessment methodology to quickly and accurately classify low-risk historic registrants by applying a focused set of seven factors (derived from the full Static-99R risk assessment) to the set of qualified, historic offenders. The term "historic offenders" refers to individuals placed on the sex offender registry prior to January 1, 2014, which is the primary population driving the current backlog. Utilizing this targeted process will significantly increase the number of classifications an Assessment Specialist can process without compromising public safety.

Following the 2025 Legislative Session, the Oregon State Police also updated their registry database and refined their search criteria. As a result, previously reported backlog numbers have been revised, and the number of historic registrants under the Board's authority for classification as of December 11 is 9,191. With the resources allocated by the 2025 Legislature – assuming continued funding and progress toward resolving the backlog – the Board fully expects to meet the June 30, 2030, target outlined in the Board's five-year plan.

![State of Oregon Seal]

Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision

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December 11, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chairs
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court ST NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Budget note under HB 5027 (2025)

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

Nature of the Request

The Board of Parole respectfully asks the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means to acknowledge receipt of a report on the work relating to efforts to address the backlog of registered sex offenders (registrants) with historic convictions who have not yet been classified into a risk level under the Sex Offender Notification Level Program (SONL). The Board was asked in the Budget Note contained in House Bill HB 5027 (2025) to report to the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means no later than January 2026 on the status of the SONL backlog.

This report outlines our strategic successes in the recruitment, training, and retention of specialized personnel, details the efforts implemented to expedite case processing, confirms the status of the backlog, and reaffirms our commitment to the established timeline for the completion of this vital public safety initiative.

Agency Action: Status of the recruitment, training, and retention of related positions

The Board has successfully completed the hiring and onboarding process for all nine new positions funded by HB 5027 to address the backlog. A comprehensive, statewide recruitment effort was successfully concluded on October 5, 2025. For the Manager position, the Board reviewed 22 candidates, conducted nine interviews, and successfully hired one highly qualified individual. For the Hearings Officer positions, the Board received 78 applications, interviewed 14 candidates, and hired two. For the Board Assessment Specialist roles, 64 applications were reviewed, and 23 interviews were held, resulting in the hiring of six specialists.

All nine successful candidates commenced their employment on October 6, 2025. The Board is happy to report a 100% retention rate as of December 8, 2025, with all nine new employees successfully engaged in the training process. This initial success in retention underscores the quality of our recruitment efforts and the commitment of our team members.

The comprehensive training program is currently on track for completion in March 2026. This training is designed to ensure all staff are fully competent in their roles. It includes new employee agency training covering the fundamental role of the Parole Board and the specifics of the SONL program. Staff are receiving in-depth instruction on the standardized Static-99R risk assessment methodology and associated procedures, *Targeted Assessment* procedures, and essential data keeping protocols for the Board's internal

systems. This training schedule ensures that all new personnel will be fully operational and conducting assessments efficiently upon completion.

Agency Action: Efforts taken to reduce the backlog

A pivotal development in our strategy to address the backlog has been the adoption of a new *Targeted Assessment* methodology that can be conducted on certain individuals. The Board amended its rule, *OAR 255-085-0020, Sex Offender Risk Assessment Methodology,* to authorize the use of a *Targeted Assessment* for a specific population of individuals. This evidence-based approach is designed to quickly and accurately classify low-risk, historic registrants by utilizing a focused set of seven factors derived from the full Static-99R risk assessment.

The targeted assessment methodology will only be applied to historic registrants who were placed on the registry before January 1, 2014, the specific population driving the current backlog. This targeted process will significantly increase the number of classifications an Assessment Specialist is able to complete, without compromising public safety. It is important to note that any historic registrant who petitions for Reclassification or Relief from the Obligation to Register, or who does not qualify for the *Targeted Assessment*, will receive a full, Static-99R assessment.

With the new staff nearing the end of their training and the adoption of the targeted assessment methodology, the Board expects to make measurable progress on classifying the historic population in the coming months. New staff have begun training on completing risk assessments under the close supervision of our experienced senior personnel.

Status of the backlog and updated project timeline

Since the 2025 legislative session, there have been significant data refinements by the Oregon State Police on the status of the backlog. Accordingly, previously reported backlog numbers have been revised following efforts by the Oregon State Police to update their database and refine their search criteria. The exact number of historic registrants currently under the Board's authority to classify stands at 9,191 as of December 11, 2025. This refined number provides a clearer, more accurate scope of the work remaining.

The Board is currently on track to meet the June 30, 2030 target as outlined in the 5-year plan submitted to the legislature in the 2025 legislative session. On, or prior to this date, all registrants currently living, working, or attending school in Oregon and who are under the Board's authority to classify will be classified and placed into an appropriate notification level. The Board's ability to meet the target date is contingent on stable funding as provided in the 5-year plan.

The Board appreciates the legislature's continued support of this critical public safety program. Please reach out with any questions or for further information regarding this report or our operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Dylan Arthur
Executive Director

John Bailey
Board Chairperson