

Analysis

Department of Corrections

Use Oregon State Penitentiary - Minimum to House Geriatric Adults in Custody

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Acknowledge receipt of a report on using the Oregon State Penitentiary - Minimum as a dedicated prison institution for elderly and infirm inmates.

Analysis: In a budget note established during the 2018 legislative session, the Department of Corrections (DOC) was directed to evaluate the feasibility of using the Oregon State Penitentiary - Minimum (OSPM) as a dedicated facility for housing male prison inmates over the age of seventy-five. The agency was directed to conduct a suitability analysis and to identify any facility modifications that would be required to safely house a population with an above-average incidence of serious health conditions and mobility limitations, and to provide a detailed cost analysis, an estimated construction timeframe for those modifications necessary to provide an adequate number of infirmary and hospice beds for this population, security upgrades, infirmary improvements, medical equipment purchases, and accessibility modifications. Additionally, the agency was directed to estimate the operating cost of the re-purposed facility, including any extraordinary costs for medical staff, transportation, and other reasonably necessary resources for housing an elderly inmate population.

The agency reports that OSPM, built in 1964 as a 76-bed women's prison, would require extensive renovations in order to function as a prison facility suited to older adults with mobility and health issues. Its single cells and common areas are not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, it has no infirmary, and the facility has either been vacant or has been used for purposes other than housing adults in custody since 2010, so would require both new equipment and renovation to bring it up to current building codes. Estimated one-time costs for these and other start-up activities total \$32.2 million and could take up to three years. Biennial operating costs are estimated at \$23.3 million per biennium. The report notes that at an estimated renovation/construction cost of more than \$1,000 per square foot, new construction of a purpose-built facility within the perimeter of a different DOC institution may be more cost-effective than renovating OSPM.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Acknowledge receipt of the report.

Department of Corrections McDonald

Request: Report on usage of the Oregon State Penitentiary - Minimum as a dedicated facility for the elderly and infirm male population by Department of Corrections.

Recommendation: Acknowledge receipt of the report.

Discussion: A Budget Note for House Bill 5201 (2018) directed the Department of Corrections (DOC) to evaluate the feasibility of using the Oregon State Penitentiary – Minimum (OSPM) as a dedicated facility for male inmates over the age of seventy-five. The Department was then directed to conduct a suitability evaluation and report to the Legislature by February 2019, including the costs and timeframe for required facility modifications. This analysis included a number of considerations, which include modifications for mobility and accessibility limitations, purchase of the necessary medical equipment for geriatric and infirm, care and provision of an adequate number of infirmary and hospice beds for this population as well as security upgrades.

The Department reports that OSPM was built for a healthy population without mobility issues. Re-purposing the facility would require extensive renovation to be suitable for housing the elderly and infirm male population of DOC. The single cells existing in the facility are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the facility currently lacks an infirmary and has not housed inmates since 2010. Additional retrofitting is necessary to comply with current building codes (fire systems, electrical, mechanical and plumbing) in addition to the specializing facility renovations. The Department estimates design and construction could take up to three years and cost approximately \$32.2 million. Additionally, to operate the facility, biennial costs are estimated at \$23.3 million. The Department reports an alternative such as new construction of a similar purpose-built facility within the perimeter of another existing Salem-area medium custody institution may be a more cost effective option.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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March 15, 2019

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) requests the opportunity to report out on the use of the Oregon State Penitentiary Minimum (OSPM) facility for a geriatric population per the HB 5201 Budget Note during the 2018 Session.

Agency Action

On January 25, 2019, DOC submitted a report to the Legislature as directed by a Budget Note in HB 5201 (2018). The Budget Note directed that:

"As of January 25, 2018, the Department of Corrections had 297 inmates in custody over the age of 70. Elderly inmates are housed throughout the state, depending on the location of infirmary and hospice beds, single-story and single-bunk cells and dormitories, and proximity to health care facilities.

The Department of Corrections is directed to evaluate the feasibility of using the Oregon State Penitentiary - Minimum as a dedicated facility for housing male prison inmates over the age of seventy-five. The Department should evaluate the suitability of using OSPM to house elderly inmates and identify any and all facility modifications that would be required to safely house a population that has an above average incidence of mobility limitations and serious health conditions. The suitability evaluation should include a detailed cost analysis and an estimated construction timeframe for those modifications to the existing facility necessary to provide an adequate number of infirmary and hospice beds for this population, as well as any security upgrades, infirmary improvements, medical equipment purchases, and accessibility modifications. The Department is directed to report to the Legislature by February 2019 on the cost and timeframe for remodeling and equipping OSPM, and on the estimated cost of operating the facility, including any extraordinary costs for medical staff, transportation, and other reasonably necessary resources for housing an elderly inmate population."

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
March 15, 2019
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Action Requested

The agency is requesting the opportunity to provide an overview of the methodology and findings of the report.

Legislation Affected

- House Bill 5201 (2018)

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Colette S. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Colette S. Peters
Director

CC: George Naughton, Acting Chief Operating Officer and DAS Director
April McDonald, CFO Policy and Budget Analyst
Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Julie Neburka, LFO Principal Legislative Analyst
Steve Robbins, DOC Chief Financial Officer
Gail Levario, DOC Communications Administrator
Jim Paul, DOC Administrative Services Assistant Director