



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Re: House Bill 2172

Chair Bynum and members of the committee, I am Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director of the Community Corrections Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am writing in support of the dash-three amendments to HB 2172.

What the Bill Does:

The amendments outline the opportunity for individuals who have committed certain crimes and are serving a period of post-prison supervision (PPS) to be discharged early from supervision – provided they have substantially complied with the terms outlined by the Board of Parole.

The passage of this bill would result in approximately 2,500 individuals per year being eligible to have their supervision terminated early, provided they met certain requirements and accomplishments. It prohibits those bound to mandatory periods of supervision due to the nature of their crimes, and those who have committed the most violent crimes from being eligible. The bill also removes the requirement that restitution must be paid in full before a person can be eligible for discharge.

Background Information:

Since the passage of [HB 3194](#) during the 2013 Legislative Session, DOC has overseen a statewide Earned Discharge Program, specific to probationers and local control clients, which has seen more than 6,300 individuals successfully end their supervision early. Oregon's program is being studied by the Crime and Justice Institute, with results and recommendations expected later this year. It is time to add the PPS population to the eligible pool of individuals able to be discharged early. Earned Discharge is incentive based, makes supervision more hopeful, and ensures individuals are only supervised for as long as necessary.

There is no greater incentive for compliance and accountability than to know you can be free of the criminal justice system once there is no longer a benefit or need to remain a part of it. This program ensures a focused and results-driven system that rewards individuals who change their behavior and holds accountable those who do not.

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Requested Action:

For the reasons explained above, the department respectfully requests your support of the dash-three amendments to HB 2172.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

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