



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Jason Kropf, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Re: House Bill 3275

Chair Kropf 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 here in support of HB 3275.

What the Bill Does:

The purpose of the bill is to amend statutes to ensure all probation cases funded for supervision by the Legislature continue to be supervised regardless of whether a county or the state, through the Department of Corrections, is responsible for the supervision of persons on probation.

In 1997, Senate Bill 1145 made counties the default for all parole and probation functions. However, an opt-out clause was included which allows counties to return supervision to the state Department of Corrections if the Legislature does not "fully fund" community corrections in accordance with the DOC funding formula. Statute also made clear that if a county opted out (chose to no longer supervise at the county level), the state was only responsible for supervising felony cases, as only felony cases were funded at that time.

Since 1997, misdemeanors have been added to the funding formula. This includes certain drug, domestic violence, assault, and sex offense misdemeanors. Given the processing of these cases is funded by the Legislature through the state, the DOC would also supervise these misdemeanor cases should a county opt-out. In fact, DOC has oversight of Linn and Douglas Counties, and DOC has assured the courts that DOC does, and will continue to supervise any misdemeanor cases funded by the Legislature.

Impact of the Bill:

Support of this bill would result in aligning statute with today's supervision and funding practices. It does not have a fiscal impact; does not result in any new penalties for any crimes; and ensures consistency in supervision between DOC and the counties.

Submitted by:

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