



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Representative Ben Bowman
House Committee on Rules

Subject: House Bill 2250

Chair Bowman and members of the committee, my name is Larry Bennett, and I serve as Assistant Director of the Correctional Services Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am providing written testimony on House Bill (HB) 2250.

What the Bill Does:

HB 2250 directs DOC to determine each adult in custody's (AIC's) last-known address (county of residence), if that address is readily known or available to them and submit the last-known address information to the Portland State University Population Research Center. It directs the center to adjust the population data reported in federal decennial census to reflect the residence status of AICs before incarceration. It further requires the legislative assembly or Secretary of State, whichever is applicable, to reapportion the state into legislative districts based on the adjusted population data and requires use of the adjusted population data to apportion county or municipal boundaries.

Background Information and Impacts:

If passed, HB 2250 would represent a significant body of new work for DOC. The only address-related information DOC can reliably provide is county of conviction. DOC does not currently collect, nor does it have the means to collect, individuals' last-known address. If passed, HB 2250 will require revisions to DOC's data collection systems to allow for the recording and retrieval of this information and to ensure it cannot be altered by other entities with shared access. Further, DOC would have no means of verifying the last-known address information provided by adults in custody.

Upon arrival at the Coffee Creek Intake Center, AICs participate in a variety of testing and information-gathering sessions with assessment staff. In order to collect this information during the intake process, a new form will need to be created to gather the last known address. With an average of 8,450 new intakes every biennium, this represents a significant new and ongoing workload for DOC's three Testing Coordinator positions, who would be responsible for collecting and entering the gathered information into DOC's data systems. However, they

would be unable to do this additional data entry until upgrades are made to DOC's information system.

In addition to newly incoming AICs, in order to comply with HB 2250 DOC would need to hire at least one Office Specialist I position to collect and enter the data on the existing population of approximately 12,000 people. The Office Specialist would be responsible for manually entering the collected last-known address data into a spreadsheet until DOC's Information Technology Unit could complete the revisions to its data systems to allow for entering of this information. Once the DOC data system revisions were completed, that position would then be responsible for reentering all the data collected in the spreadsheet into the DOC's data system and continuing to update the last-known residence data.

DOC's Research Unit would also need to work with the Portland State University Population Research Center to develop a data-sharing agreement and determine how to query and present the data to Portland State University in a manner that is also functional for their data systems. This committee may not be aware that there is already a statewide Enterprise Data Sharing initiative under Enterprise Information Services (EIS) with the Chief Data Officer, which will require completion of the Enterprise Data Framework. The framework would define the protocols for data transmissions and access controls across agencies and would ensure compliance with privacy laws, formatting, and compatibility. However, if HB 2250 is passed and DOC is required to meet the requirements before the statewide data sharing initiative is completed, DOC procurement resources would be needed to create and execute a standalone data sharing agreement with additional cost for DOJ to review. It would also require additional IT resources to upgrade DOC's current system and develop and implement criteria that defines last known address, any business and validation rules, standard procedures for updating and maintaining records, and the fidelity measures to ensure data accuracy (entry audits and/or policy compliance audits).

A factor this committee may want to consider as it pertains to the need this bill would create for DOC to make immediate upgrades to its existing data systems is that DOC has already requested funds and is planning for IT modernization, which would replace its current data systems. System changes that would be necessitated by the passage of HB 2250 would be more cost effective to incorporate as part of the DOC's modernization plan. It would also result in more accurate and robust last-known address data. Modernization would allow DOC to adopt all of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data fields, which has extensive information and preestablished standards regarding housing. In addition, modernization provides the opportunity for integration with USPS in order to validate the addresses, saving time for staff and increasing data accuracy.

There is some vagueness in the bill in that it does not clarify if there is a length of time an AIC must have been living in Oregon, lawfully or otherwise, at a certain address for it to qualify as a

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last known address. There are many AICs in Oregon prisons from bordering states who crossed into Oregon to commit their crime(s). The bill also does not identify what DOC should record for the last-known address if it is not readily known to the AIC or they choose not to provide the information. Process decisions would need to be put in place for AICs that report they were transient before incarceration and how that information would be captured.

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

Submitted by:

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