

MEASURE: HB 2685  
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# Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

## **RE: House Bill 2685**

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, I am Cindy Booth, Transition and Reentry Administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). I am here to testify in support of HB 2685 and answer any questions you may have.

### **What this Bill Does**

HB 2685 removes restrictive language and clarifies DOC's statutory authority to contract with county community corrections agencies and other entities to quarter (house) inmates eligible for work release, by removing an impediment to their ability to provide reentry services to these inmates when nearing release from prison. More specifically, the bill permits DOC inmates housed outside of DOC facilities under a contract to participate in work release, temporary and transitional leave, and programs of conditional and supervised release to the same extent that DOC inmates housed at DOC facilities may participate in such programs.

### **Issue Addressed by this Bill**

A 2011 Budget Note encouraged the department to develop and enter into an agreement with counties to provide evidence-based treatment, employment preparation including work release, and transitional planning for inmates scheduled to release within 90 to 180 days of their projected release date.

During the development of these agreements, the department's legal counsel informed us of the statutory restrictions prohibiting implementation. HB 2685 has an emergency clause which would allow both the implementation of reentry pilot programs authorized by the 2011 Reentry Pilot Budget Note, as well as other collaboration opportunities with community corrections agencies seeking to provide work release and reentry services for inmates nearing release from prison, upon the effective date of the legislation.

The department welcomes the committee's support of this bill.

### *Submitted by:*

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