

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 28, 2009

3:00 p.m.

Room 117

Local Government Center  
Salem, OR

**Present**

Commissioners Jay Dixon (Chair), Jim Bernard, Ken Fahlgren and (by phone) Cheryl Hukill; Community Corrections Director Steve Berger, Juvenile Department Director Tim Loewen; Sheriff Diana Simpson; Multnomah County Public Safety Council Director, Carol Wessinger; Jim Austin, Clackamas County Public Affairs; and Paul Snider

Commissioner Dixon brought the meeting to order.

Steve Berger described the amendments to HB 2290. He referred to a document entitled “Further Public Safety and Judicial Branch Reductions to Reach \$77.8 Million Resenting Target” and HB 2335. Paul Snider described the meetings with various key legislators and lobbyists that have taken place over the past few days.

The \$77.8 million proposal was presented by Senators Prozanski and Verger, with Representatives Barker and Shields. They had indicated to a number of interest groups that the cuts represented in the list would occur unless either HB 2335 or HB 2290 passes. HB 2290 includes some, but not all, the savings that are contained in HB 2335. The major difference between HB 2290 and HB 2335 is that HB 2335 includes a “phase in” of Ballot Measure 57. If HB 2290 passed, and HB 2335 did not pass, there would still be cuts as described in the \$77.8 Million document, but not as great.

Commissioner Dixon asked for reactions to HB 2335. Commissioner Bernard said he prefers it to the cuts alternative. Sheriff Simpson said some sheriffs feel they supported Measure 57 and that we shouldn’t go back. Others agree with HB 2335. Steve Atchison said the Oregon District Attorneys Association (ODAA) position is to let some offenders out the back end of the system rather than the “phase in” described in HB 2335.

Steve Berger made several points. First, Measure 57 reduced community corrections funding by about \$3 million. HB 2335 should restore some of that funding since it would involve more supervision. Second, it would change the population under supervision downward. Third, HB 2290 reduces the penalty for possession of a controlled substance from a B felony to an A misdemeanor, and from a C felony to an A misdemeanor. They estimate a savings of \$7 million would occur because of that. Both Sheriff Simpson and Steve Atchison disputed that savings estimate. They expected that recidivism by those offenders would increase and thereby diminish the savings.

Commissioner Dixon asked whether ODAA and OSSA oppose HB 2335. Sheriff Simpson said OSSA does not support HB 2290. But she would support HB 2335. Commissioner Dixon also expressed support for HB 2335. Commissioner Hukill said the phase in simply is common sense. Commissioner Dixon asked if anyone disagrees. No one responded.

Sheriff Simpson moved that the committee support HB 2335. Commissioner Hukill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tim Loewen described the latest news with regard to the Oregon Youth Authority budget. \$35 million and \$6.2 million in add-back proposals had been requested by Representative Shields. But Tim does not know how to respond to the \$77.8 million cuts document. He will check back with other members of the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association.

Paul Snider advised of the status of SB 971, the amendments that had been made by Senator Verger, and the record that she had created relating to AOC concerns. He indicated that with those concerns addressed, AOC testified in support of the bill. Snider asked if anyone disagreed with that action. No reactions were made.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.