

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND CORRECTIONS

January 18, 1993 Hearing Room 357 3:00 p.m. Tapes 1 - 2

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Tiernan, Chair Rep. Brown Rep. Courtney Rep. Tarno

STAFF PRESENT: Holly Robinson, Legal Counsel Carole Souvenir, Legal Counsel Katy Yetter, Clerk

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2222 - Relating to inmate work HB 2226  
- Relating to inmate emergency leave

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These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes. [--- Unable To Translate Graphic ---]

TAPE 1, SIDE A

001 CHAIR TIERNAN: Opens meeting at 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2222

WITNESSES: Frank Hall, Department of Corrections Denis Dowd, Department of Corrections

005 HOLLY ROBINSON, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Presents Staff Measure Summary. -Fiscal impact: minimal. -HB 2222 involves the type of labor that inmates are allowed to perform inside the prison.

FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Introduces Denis Dowd, passes out testimony (EXHIBIT A). Streamlines State government and wants an advisory board in capacity of the Department of Corrections. This representation should exist with various requirements, and draw from such pools as the business community, etc.

REP. TARNO: Program of manufacturing "prison blues" removed?

FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Not aware of current controversy involving clothing manufacturing. DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Program agreement not to

compete with another clothing business. If garment manufacturing

expands, consideration will be given.

REP. COURTNEY: Asks Hall if he has a list of specific duties for the inmates.

FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Replies that he does not currently, but can provide one.

CHAIR TIERNAN: Asks what kind of employment will be supported by the Department of Corrections.

FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Has had some success with involving private sector and inmate labor. Some of these are in areas of high demand items, or are in areas where if they did not do the work, it may not get done in the United States.

065 CHAIR TIERNAN: Several years ago, some work was done through Nike. This is something you may do?

FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: What we would do is explore these possibilities. Has a problem with non-American manufacturing, but we would not take jobs away from local Oregonians.

WORK SESSION ON HB 2222

100 MOTION: REP. COURTNEY: Moves HB 2222 to the Full Committee with a DO PASS recommendation.

VOTE: In a roll call vote, all members vote AYE.

CHAIR TIERNAN: The motion CARRIES. All members are present.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2226

WITNESSES: Denis Dowd, Department of Corrections Frank Hall,  
Department of Corrections

HOLLY ROBINSON, COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Presents Staff Measure Summary.

FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Would like to amend current statute 421.166 to establish an new emergency leave statute. (EXHIBIT B). There will still be a review of the inmate to determine the safety of said inmate for leave. This is not a shift in policy. -Expands provisions to allow for medical care.

134 CHAIR TIERNAN: How often do you anticipate this to happen?

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: In 1992, 211 inmates were hospitalized for more than one day. Approximately 100 of these were

minimum security, and eligible for this type of emergency release.

CHAIR TIERNAN: Were there any escapes?

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: No, but some were late in returning.

200 CHAIR TIERNAN: How late were they?

CHAIR TIERNAN: Not more than a few hours, and they usually called to let us know they would be late.

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Transported by a family member when on emergency leave, usually.

CHAIR TIERNAN: What are the types of crimes committed by those under minimum security?

268 DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Could be any inmate, any crime.

CHAIR TIERNAN: What are the indicated costs of the bill based on?

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: We have no funding for hospital watch/overtime--basically, the money is allotted for salaries.

CHAIR TIERNAN: Asks for point of clarification regarding why there may be no staffing of hospital watch.

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: No staff benefits-- we looked at total overtime hours to hospital watches and estimated only 20% falls into category of dangerous

300 CHAIR TIERNAN: Alternative of hiring a private security firm?

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Replies that it is really not possible.

REP. COURTNEY: Asks what average leave time is for the inmate.

FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Replies that it is about two days.

REP. COURTNEY: Asks about health care within the facility?

390 FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Makes arrangements for some of those conditions which are not readily covered by the facility.

TAPE 2, SIDE A

009 REP. COURTNEY: Asks if the Department has checked with the hospitals to see if this plan is agreeable to them. -gives story of

incident during such emergency leave.

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Realizes there are ongoing concerns about the current situation. - tries to get at least one guard per inmate.

058 REP. TARNO: Asks about how the decision is made as to who is granted leave.

FRANK HALL, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: There exist a set of eligibility requirements that the Department uses to determine who may be granted leave.

REP. BROWN: Inquires about the number of prisoners on family leave.

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Responds one or two per month.

105 REP. BROWN: Asks if any were escapes.

DENIS DOWD, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS: Replies that there were none.

NOTE: DOWD AND HALL CONTINUE TO GIVE VARIOUS STATISTICS ON LEAVE NUMBERS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

200 CHAIR TIERNAN: Adjourns meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Katy Yetter  
Coordinator

Anne May Clerk

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Testimony on HB 2222 - Frank Hall - 1 page B - Testimony on HB 2226 - Frank Hall - 2 pages