



**REPRESENTATIVE JULIE PARRISH
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 37**

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Rep. Julie Parrish Introduces Legislation To Reduce Recidivism
Proposals Would Increase Opportunities For People To Reintegrate Into Society Post-Incarceration

Salem, OR – Today, the Oregon House of Representatives first read two bills, HB 3119 and HB 3120, sponsored by Representative Julie Parrish (R-Tualatin/West Linn) aimed at reducing recidivism by providing judges incentives they can offer during post-correction supervision as well as expanded work release opportunities.

“As long as I have been serving in the Legislature, I’ve seen several bills, many well intended, aimed at trying to reduce recidivism. But one of the things that is lacking is a way for offenders to access more incentives and opportunities to ‘buy back’ their lives,” stated Rep. Parrish.

HB 3119 aims to expand work release offerings for inmates who have been afforded the ability to participate in a work release program. “Currently, work release is aimed solely on connecting inmates to jobs, which tend to be low-wage or minimum-wage jobs,” said Rep. Parrish. “HB 3119 would expand work release to include college coursework, apprenticeships, and paid or unpaid internship opportunities. If we’re serious about moving people into better paying jobs to meet basic needs, then connecting inmates to career opportunities, provided they can meet all other work release conditions, is a step in the right direction.”

HB 3120 gives judges, based on recommendations from parole and probation officers, the ability to waive fines and fees associated with DMV and corrections costs. Further, HB 3120 gives a judge the ability to waive an Oregon statute for professional licensure when, where appropriate, a judge feels that an individual in a post-correction supervision situation has earned back the right to participate in a career field where their status as a felon blocks their path back to integration in society. “Many professions in Oregon have a licensure requirement that disallows a felon from participation in their chosen industry,” continued Rep. Parrish. “This bill would give a judge the discretion to let someone who has earned through good behavior and meeting conditions of post-correction supervision, the ability to have access to a career.”

Rep. Parrish has been working on issues that would support smoother landings for people leaving our correctional facilities as they transition back into society. “The issues of reducing recidivism are something with personal meaning to me. My older sister was booked in and out of our justice system for years until she died of a drug overdose in 2011. Reducing recidivism is also critical for minorities and communities of color, who disproportionately show up in our jails and prisons,” stated Parrish. “We can do better, and these bills are the start of a conversation which I will continue to engage in until we move the dial for the better on reducing recidivism.”

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<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/parrish>