



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature  
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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Senate approves bill to suspend expanded earned time, end resentencing hearings, and audit program**

SALEM – The Senate gave approval this morning to legislation that will clarify the Legislature’s intent on HB 3508, passed in the 2009 session. Specifically, Senate Bill 1007 addresses unintended consequences by clarifying that violent criminals cannot be granted 10 percent additional earned time.

“Our number one public safety priority is to keep dangerous criminals and sex offenders behind bars,” said Senator Joanne Verger (D-District 5). “Senate Bill 1007 addresses unintended consequences and will stop resentencing hearings.”

Senate Bill 1007 has several components, including:

- **No more resentencing hearings:** Once this bill moves through the Legislature and is signed by the Governor, resentencing hearings for additional earned time will end.
- **“Time Out:”** Senate Bill 1007 suspends additional earned time until July 2011.
- **Expanded list of ineligible crimes:** The bill adds to an already existing list of crimes for which offenders cannot be granted an additional 10 percent earned time and ensures that violent criminals and sex offenders cannot receive an additional 10 percent earned time on any crime.
- **Independent audit of earned time:** During the “time out,” the Secretary of State’s Audits Division will conduct a study of Oregon’s earned time program and issue its findings to the 2011 Legislature.

“Long term, our goal is to have Oregon be one of the safest states in the country, and SB 1007 helps us meet that goal,” said Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), who carried the bill on the floor and chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee. “The information collected during the audit will allow the Legislature to make an informed decision during the next regular session about how Oregon uses earned time.”

House Bill 3508 was passed in 2009 in order to preserve the necessary funds to maintain 24/7 highway coverage by the Oregon State Police, along with the forensic laboratories and criminal investigators at OSP; and maintain the number of beds in the Oregon Youth Authority. The 10 percent earned time provision was just one part of the measure.

“HB 3508 didn’t happen in a vacuum – our investments in public safety all relate to each other in terms of

recidivism, keeping communities safe, and our ability to prosecute crimes in the first place,” said Senator Chip Shields (D-Portland).

The measure was crafted by a work group including Prozanski, Verger, Shields, House Judiciary Chair Jeff Barker and Representative Nancy Nathanson. Prozanski has a background as a professional prosecutor. Barker is a former police lieutenant with over 30 years of law enforcement experience.

The bill will now go directly to the House floor for consideration.

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