

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB2398
Version:	INT
Request Number:	7923
Author:	Rep. Biggs
Date:	2/22/2016
Impact:	Contributes to the necessity to replace the Offender Management System.

Research Analysis

HB 2398 requires that the Department of Corrections to give notice of the date of release or date of anticipated release of an inmate to the service provider designated by the Attorney General of the Oklahoma Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) service not less than 5 days prior to the release of the inmate. The Department of Corrections is prohibited from releasing the inmate to the community until notification has been provided to VINE.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

HB2398 would require the Department of Corrections to establish a new way of transferring prisoner release data earlier than they currently do in order to follow the provisions provided therein.

Prepared By: Joshua Maxey

Other Considerations

According to officials with the Department of Corrections, “in order for the Department of Corrections to meet the mandates listed in this bill, it would require us to purchase a new offender management system. Our current system can’t generate the required reports and amending it isn’t an option. The estimated cost of replacing the offender management system is \$18 million.”

The Department of Corrections has addressed the need for an updated offender management system at least as far back as 2007. Moreover, the “Performance Audit of the Department of Corrections for the Legislative Service Bureau of the Oklahoma Legislature,” completed by MGT of America, Inc., stated, “DOC lacks an effective system for management, planning and operating its information technology (IT) resources. At present management of the IT functions resides in several different divisions, hampering coordination of services. Furthermore, DOC’s core offender management information system is unreliable, leaving the department in an extremely vulnerable position.

Electronic offender databases are essential for modern correctional agencies. They should provide correctional staff and others with quick access to inmate demographics, offense histories, sentence information and information on behavioral adjustment and program involvement. MGT found serious deficiencies in DOC’s Offender Management System (OMS) that call its accuracy and reliability into question. The department’s attempt to build its own replacement application,

the Criminal Offender Management Information Tracking system (COMIT), has been unsuccessful to date, and appears unlikely to meet the department's needs within an acceptable timeframe.

DOC must quickly evaluate and determine the best alternative for replacing OMS. We recommend that DOC fund a thorough review of its current application requirements and identify an optimal path for a future offender application, given the time and funding constraints it faces. This review should compare the benefits and costs of upgrading OMS, adding more resources to complete COMIT or adopting a different solution.”

In summation, it is prudent to note that HB2398 requires the DOC to establish a new way of alerting victims via the VINE system. This, in turn, will require some level of enhancement within DOC (i.e. offender management system). It is also sensible to state that HB2398 does not compel the DOC to upgrade said system; however, some reconfiguration is required in order to comply with the provisions therein.