

## **SB 241 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/8

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs Department of Corrections and Bureau of Labor of Industries to study barriers to accessing apprenticeships faced by individuals released from correctional facilities. Requires Department of Corrections to submit report to interim legislative committees for education by September 15, 2022. Sunsets January 2, 2023.

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued*

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

##### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

Access to jobs and apprenticeships following release from prison has been shown to reduce recidivism. There may be barriers that prevent post-release individuals from achieving gainful employment. According to some estimates, unemployment can be as high as 60 percent among those with criminal convictions in the year following release from prison. Some of this is due to discrimination from employers who require job applicants to disclose prior criminal convictions, impeding those who are released from prison from successfully reentering their communities.

Article I, section 41 of the Oregon Constitution requires all able adults in custody to be engaged in full-time work or on-the-job training, or in a combination of work and education. In addition to work programs for adults in custody, the Oregon Department of Corrections provides access to high school equivalency programs such as the General Educational Development (GED) exam and college courses through partnerships with local community colleges. There are limited apprenticeship opportunities for those who are currently or formerly incarcerated, typically in building trades such as construction.

Senate Bill 241 directs the Oregon Department of Corrections, in partnership with the Bureau of Labor and Industries, to study the barriers to accessing apprenticeship opportunities facing those who are released from prison and requires the department to report to interim legislative committees by September 15, 2022.