

SB 736 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/17/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek

Nays: 2 - Robinson, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/24, 3/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Restorative Justice. Establishes membership requirements. Requires task force to make recommendations to legislature to reduce exclusionary discipline in schools, reduce juvenile incarceration, and reduce racial disparities in education and juvenile justice. Establishes reporting and staffing requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Restorative justice programs and infrastructure in other states
- Membership of task force

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds two members to task force. Changes appointing authority for judge to Chief Justice.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has historically had high rates of youth incarceration compared to other states. Disparities in school discipline exist for students of color as well as students with disabilities. In Colorado, establishment of a statewide Restorative Justice Council governing restorative practices in schools and in the juvenile justice system has led to improved outcomes for students.

Senate Bill 736 A establishes a task force to study restorative justice and make recommendations to the legislature for establishment of a similar system in Oregon.