

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	6 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Berger, Buckley, Esquivel, Hunt, Roblan, Rosenbaum
Nays:	Thatcher
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	6/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Public Safety Strategies Task Force consisting of six members. Directs the Senate President to appoint two Senate members, one of whom must be a member of the Democratic Party or an Independent, and the other of whom must be a member of the Republican Party. Directs the Speaker of the House to appoint two House members, one of whom must be a member of the Democratic Party and the other of whom must be a member of the Republican Party. Requires the Governor to appoint two members. Requires the task force to elect one of its members as chairperson. Ends the task force on the date of the convening of the next regular biennial legislative session.

Directs the task force to: (1) Evaluate the investments in state-funded programs, including but not limited to child development programs, to ensure that the funding effectively and efficiency reduces crime; (2) Evaluate the amount of moneys invested in state-funded programs that effectively reduce crime rates and victimization rates by reducing recidivism rates; (3) Identify ways to increase support for programs that reduce criminal and delinquent behavior; (4) Identify ways to prevent people from committing crimes; (5) Make recommendations so sentencing laws better meet the principles set forth in section 15, Article I of the Oregon Constitution, that punishment shall be founded on the principles of "protection of society, personal responsibility, accountability for one's own actions and reformation; (6) Make recommendations based upon the cost-benefit analyses of state criminal justice policies; and (7) Consider the best use of available resources to reduce crime rates and victimization rates, and to hold offenders accountable for their actions. Requires the task force to report to the interim Judiciary Committee no later than October 1, 2008. Appropriates funding. Declares an emergency; becomes effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Consensus bill
- What will be the scope of review for evaluating child development programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Substitutes the term "investments" for "moneys invested" as it relates to evaluating state-funded programs. Allocates the sum of \$100,000 for the purposes of carrying out the work of the task force.

BACKGROUND: In 1989, Oregon replaced indeterminate sentencing where the length of time served was determined by the Parole Board, with Sentencing Guidelines, where sentences are based on the nature of the crime committed and the offender's criminal history. Measure 11, adopted by the voters in 1995, modified Sentencing Guidelines in that it set a floor for specific crimes. What this means is that an offender, at a minimum, receives the Measure 11 sentence, but if the offender could receive a longer sentence under Sentencing Guidelines because of past criminal history and other aggravating factors, a court may sentence the offender to the longer sentence under Sentencing Guidelines. In addition, Oregon has mandatory minimums for: (1) Aggravated murder (ORS 163.105); (2) Assaulting a public safety officer (ORS 163.208); (3) Use of a firearm during the commission of a felony (ORS 161.601); and (4) More recently, the increased mandatory minimum sentence for sexual assault on a victim under twelve years of age.

Since 1989, Oregon's prison population increased from approximately 4,000 inmates to over 13,000 inmates while its crime rate has decreased. This decrease is probably caused by many factors, one of which could be the increased number of persons incarcerated.

During the upcoming 2007-09 biennium, Oregon will spend over a billion and one-half dollars on the Department of Corrections (\$1.34 billion) and the Oregon Youth Authority (\$246.5 million). This does not include what local governments spend on jails and on county juvenile departments.

In 1985, the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission was created with its primary purpose of developing a state criminal justice policy and comprehensive, long-range plan for a coordinated state criminal justice system. In 1991, the Commission on Children and Families was created to promote the wellness of children and families in Oregon. In 1995, the Oregon Youth Authority was created as a government entity separate and apart from the Department of Human Services, not only for the purpose of the supervision of youth correction facilities, but to reduce recidivism rates among youth offenders. In 2003, Oregon was the first state to mandate that programs intended to reduce criminal behavior must be evidenced-based (ORS 182.515 to 182.525).

What Oregon has not done is look at how effective our criminal justice system is at reducing crime and delinquency within the context of Section 15, Article I of the Oregon Constitution.