

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Without Recommendation as to Passage With Amendments and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	6 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Jenson, Read, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Gelser, Nolan
Prepared By:	Jerry Watson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/11, 4/29, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to (a) prepare and submit racial and ethnic impact statement to legislative committee prior to hearing on legislation that may affect racial and ethnic composition of criminal offender population; (b) develop a standardized protocol for preparation of racial and ethnic impact statements; and (c) prepare racial and ethnic impact statements on state measures that may affect racial and ethnic composition of criminal offender population. Establishes process for Secretary of State to hold hearings on statements and for statements or revised statements to be printed in voters' pamphlet and on ballot. Requires State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision to prepare and consider racial and ethnic impact statements in establishing rules applicable to parole and post-prison supervision. Requires racial and ethnic impact statements to include description of the potential effect of legislation on crime victims who are members of racial and ethnic groups for which data are available.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of full information in avoiding unintended consequences from legislation that may be adopted
- Examples of unintended consequences of adopted legislation on minority communities
- Review of similar legislation in other states
- Impact of printing statement on ballot caption length
- Cost impact on ballot publishing and ballot length
- Possible inclusion of racial and ethnic impact on victims
- Cost and difficulty of conducting research and obtaining racial and ethnic information

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to prepare an estimate of the effect of the proposed legislation on preventing crime against members of racial and ethnic groups for which data are available. Directs State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision to prepare and consider a racial and ethnic impact statement describing effects of its rules on crime victims.

BACKGROUND: Oregon does not currently require use of racial and/or ethnic impact statements. Proponents assert that there are significant disparities in incarceration rates for racial and ethnic minorities. In 2008, Iowa became the first state to enact legislation requiring policy makers to prepare racial impact statements for proposed legislation that affects sentencing. Proponents assert that two other states, Connecticut and Wisconsin, have also taken action on this subject.