

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Boquist, Dingfelder, Whitsett, Prozanski

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Lisa Nuss, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/5, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Department of Corrections to reduce a term of incarceration up to 60 days for inmates who successfully complete a high school diploma, GED, post-secondary degree or registered apprenticeship program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Doesn't change the current 20 percent limit on earned time credits

EFFECT OF PROPOSED COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds completion of journey level certification from a registered apprenticeship program to apply toward sentence reduction.

BACKGROUND: Under current law, offenders can receive credit for up to 20 percent of their total sentence for participating in adult skills programs as defined by ORS 421.084. HB 2623 A as amended allows education and apprenticeship programs to count towards the 20 percent reduction available. If the judge has not included eligibility for earned time in the sentence, then the person could not receive these credits.

The Department of Corrections estimates that 1,018 inmates per biennium meet the requirements for early release. Of that number, approximately 428 do not reach the maximum earned time allowed and would be eligible for additional earned time under the provisions of this measure. The department estimates that this measure could save between \$500,000 and \$1 million for 2009-2011.