

# House Bill 2981

Sponsored by Representative CAMERON; Representatives BARTON, BERGER, BRUUN, ESQUIVEL, HUFFMAN, KRIEGER, OLSON, ROBLAN, SHIELDS, J SMITH, THATCHER, THOMPSON

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires interim committee on judiciary to study and recommend changes in occupational licensing laws to encourage employment of persons with criminal convictions while protecting public. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2009.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to employment of persons with criminal convictions; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The joint legislative interim committee on the judiciary, or other appropriate legislative interim committee dealing with issues of criminal justice, shall conduct a**  
5 **study of occupational licensing laws and policies to encourage employment of individuals with**  
6 **criminal convictions while ensuring the safety of the public. The committee shall:**

7  
8 (a) **Examine what licensed occupations are most appropriate for individuals with criminal**  
9 **convictions.**

10 (b) **Examine what licensed occupations are more likely to have job opportunities for in-**  
11 **dividuals with criminal convictions.**

12 (c) **Review approaches used by other states and jurisdictions for issuing occupational li-**  
13 **censes to individuals with criminal convictions.**

14 (d) **Develop a process and standards by which a licensing board may determine whether**  
15 **a criminal conviction renders an applicant an unsuitable candidate for a license or whether**  
16 **a conviction warrants revocation or suspension of a license previously granted.**

17 (e) **Develop guidelines for potential applicants that reflect the most common or well-**  
18 **known categories of crimes and their relation to specific license types.**

19 (f) **Develop mechanisms for making information regarding the process and guidelines**  
20 **easily accessible to potential applicants with criminal histories.**

21 (2) **Based on the study, the committee shall make recommendations to the Seventy-sixth**  
22 **Legislative Assembly.**

23 (3) **The committee shall invite participation in the study by:**

24 (a) **The Employment Department.**

25 (b) **The Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.**

26 (c) **Professional and occupational licensing boards, including the Oregon Health Licensing**  
27 **Agency.**

28 (d) **The Department of Corrections.**

29 (e) **The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.**

30 (f) **The Oregon District Attorneys Association.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (g) Criminal defense attorneys.

2 (h) Victims' rights organizations.

3 (i) Persons involved with the transition of individuals with criminal convictions into the  
4 community.

5 (j) Individuals with a criminal history.

6 (k) Family members of individuals with a criminal history.

7 **SECTION 2.** This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
8 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect  
9 on July 1, 2009.

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