



**Oregon
Juvenile
Department
Directors
Association**

*Representing Oregon
Juvenile Departments*
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February 8, 2012

TO: Human Services Committee

RE: HB 4165

MEASURE: HB 4165
EXHIBIT: 32
2012 SESSION H RULES
DATE: 2/8/12 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: Lara Smith / Dave Barrows

Background:

In the Fall of 2011, a Youth Services Workgroup, Chaired by Benton County Commissioner Jay Dixon, was given the charge of making recommendations on a course of action for the "...consolidating, aligning and coordinating governance, programs and funding for youth development and training, including the Oregon Youth Investment Foundation, juvenile crime prevention programs and services, the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps and the Youth Standing Committee of the Oregon Workforce Investment Board," as called for by Senate Bill 909 (2011).

The OJDDA was represented on the Youth Services Workgroup. Oregon Juvenile Departments play a key role in administering and delivering juvenile justice programs which are federally-funded, as well as those which are funded by Oregon's **Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP)** funds. Oregon's JCP programs provide essential services for Oregon's high risk youth with an ultimate goal of reducing juvenile crime and preventing delinquency. The target population for JCP funds are youth who:

- Have more than one of the following risk factors: antisocial behavior; poor family functioning or poor family support; school failure; substance abuse; and/or negative peer association; and
- Are clearly demonstrating at-risk behaviors that have come to the attention of government or community agencies, schools or law enforcement and will lead to imminent or increased involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The Youth Services Workgroup made several recommendations supported by OJDDA, which included:

- The formation of a **Youth Development Council (YDC)** under the Oregon Education Investment Board.
- The YDC will assess all existing programs and services in state government for youth prevention, development and training, resulting in a continuum of services for a youth population that is integrated, measureable, and accountable.
- The YDC would align and coordinate a statewide continuum of prevention and development services for youth ages 6 to 20 to ensure the attainment of the goals to be established by the Oregon Education Investment Board.
- Exploration of a merger of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC) and Juvenile Justice Advisory Committees (JJAC).

The OJDDA's Requested Amendment to HB 4165:

The OJDDA met with the Governor's Office on February 3, 2012, and requested amendment to HB 4165 with the following rationale:

- HB 4165 be amended to reflect all the recommendations listed above that were put forth by the Youth Services Workgroup. In its original form, HB 4165 immediately abolishes the Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC), and transfers all duties, functions, and powers of the JCPAC to the YDC.
- Rather than immediate abolishment, allow the JCPAC to sunset on 6/30/13, and exist JCPAC under the Youth Development Council in the interim. The OJDDA's proposed amendment would allow the newly formed Youth Development Council to transition the functions of JCPAC and truly consider the best options for coordinating issues related to adolescents who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

The Governor's Office indicated a willingness to incorporate the OJDDA's requested change in its proposed amendments to HB 4165. The OJDDA appreciates and values the collaboration exhibited by the Governor's Office with regard to modifications of HB 4165, as well as the emphasis the Governor has placed on prioritization of the statewide issues of prevention and intervention programming related to gang violence and gang involvement in HB 4165.

The OJDDA welcomes an opportunity to participate in the important work of forming and implementing the Youth Development Council. It is critical that the unique needs of adolescents who are juvenile-justice system involved are incorporated in the alignment and coordination work of the YDC. The OJDDA urges the Human Services Committee to adopt the amendments proposed by the Governor's Office with regard to the Youth Development Council portion of HB 4165.

For Further Information Contact:

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