

Senate Bill 89

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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 superintendent of state mental hospital or director of facility to evaluate defendant for capacity to stand trial if district attorney intends to file charges against defendant after defendant is discharged by court order.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to civil commitments; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 161.370.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 161.370 is amended to read:

5 161.370. (1) When the defendant's fitness to proceed is drawn in question, the issue shall be de-
6 termined by the court. If neither the prosecuting attorney nor counsel for the defendant contests the
7 finding of the report filed under ORS 161.365, the court may make the determination on the basis
8 of the report. If the finding is contested, the court shall hold a hearing on the issue. If the report
9 is received in evidence in the hearing, the party who contests the finding has the right to summon
10 and to cross-examine any psychiatrist or psychologist who submitted the report and to offer evidence
11 upon the issue. Other evidence regarding the defendant's fitness to proceed may be introduced by
12 either party.

13 (2) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed, the criminal proceeding
14 against the defendant shall be suspended and:

15 (a) If the court finds that the defendant is dangerous to self or others as a result of mental
16 disease or defect, or that the services and supervision necessary to restore the defendant's fitness
17 to proceed are not available in the community, the court shall commit the defendant to the custody
18 of the superintendent of a state mental hospital or director of a facility, designated by the Oregon
19 Health Authority, if the defendant is at least 18 years of age, or to the custody of the director of
20 a secure intensive community inpatient facility designated by the authority if the defendant is under
21 18 years of age; or

22 (b) If the court does not make a finding described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, or if the
23 court determines that care other than commitment for incapacity to stand trial would better serve
24 the defendant and the community, the court shall release the defendant on supervision for as long
25 as the unfitness endures.

26 (3) When a defendant is released on supervision under this section, the court may place condi-
27 tions that the court deems appropriate on the release, including the requirement that the defendant
28 regularly report to the authority or a community mental health program for examination to deter-
29 mine if the defendant has regained capacity to stand trial.

30 (4) When the court, on its own motion or upon the application of the superintendent of the

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 hospital or director of the facility in which the defendant is committed, a person examining the de-
2 fendant as a condition of release on supervision, or either party, determines, after a hearing, if a
3 hearing is requested, that the defendant has regained fitness to proceed, the criminal proceeding
4 shall be resumed. If, however, the court is of the view that so much time has elapsed since the
5 commitment or release of the defendant on supervision that it would be unjust to resume the crim-
6 inal proceeding, the court on motion of either party may dismiss the charge and may order the de-
7 fendant to be discharged or cause a proceeding to be commenced forthwith under ORS 426.070 to
8 426.170 or 427.235 to 427.290.

9 (5) The superintendent of a state hospital or director of a facility to which the defendant is
10 committed shall cause the defendant to be evaluated within 60 days from the defendant's delivery
11 into the superintendent's or director's custody, for the purpose of determining whether there is a
12 substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will have the capacity to stand
13 trial. In addition, the superintendent or director shall:

14 (a) Immediately notify the committing court if the defendant, at any time, gains or regains the
15 capacity to stand trial or will never have the capacity to stand trial.

16 (b) Within 90 days of the defendant's delivery into the superintendent's or director's custody,
17 notify the committing court that:

18 (A) The defendant has the present capacity to stand trial;

19 (B) There is no substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain
20 or regain the capacity to stand trial; or

21 (C) There is a substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or
22 regain the capacity to stand trial. If the probability exists, the superintendent or director shall give
23 the court an estimate of the time in which the defendant, with appropriate treatment, is expected
24 to gain or regain capacity.

25 (6)(a) If the superintendent or director determines that there is a substantial probability that,
26 in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain the capacity to stand trial, unless the
27 court otherwise orders, the defendant shall remain in the superintendent's or director's custody
28 where the defendant shall receive treatment designed for the purpose of enabling the defendant to
29 gain or regain capacity. In keeping with the notice requirement under subsection (5)(b) of this sec-
30 tion, the superintendent or director shall, for the duration of the defendant's period of commitment,
31 submit a progress report to the committing court, concerning the defendant's capacity or incapacity,
32 at least once every 180 days as measured from the date of the defendant's delivery into the
33 superintendent's or director's custody.

34 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, if the superintendent or director deter-
35 mines that a defendant committed under this section is no longer dangerous to self or others as a
36 result of mental disease or defect, or that the services and supervision necessary to restore the
37 defendant's fitness to proceed are available in the community, the superintendent or director shall
38 file notice of that determination with the court. Upon receipt of the notice, the court shall order
39 the person released on supervision as described in subsection (3) of this section.

40 (7)(a) A defendant who remains committed under subsection (6) of this section shall be dis-
41 charged within a period of time that is reasonable for making a determination concerning whether
42 or not, and when, the defendant may gain or regain capacity. However, regardless of the number
43 of charges with which the defendant is accused, in no event shall the defendant be committed for
44 longer than whichever of the following, measured from the defendant's initial custody date, is
45 shorter:

1 (A) Three years; or

2 (B) A period of time equal to the maximum sentence the court could have imposed if the de-
3 fendant had been convicted.

4 (b) For purposes of calculating the maximum period of commitment described in paragraph (a)
5 of this subsection:

6 (A) The initial custody date is the date on which the defendant is first committed under this
7 section on any charge alleged in the accusatory instrument; and

8 (B) The defendant shall be given credit against each charge alleged in the accusatory instrument
9 for each day the defendant is committed under this section, whether the days are consecutive or are
10 interrupted by a period of time during which the defendant has regained fitness to proceed.

11 (8) The superintendent or director shall notify the committing court of the defendant's impending
12 discharge 30 days before the date on which the superintendent or director is required to discharge
13 the defendant under subsection (7) of this section.

14 (9) When the committing court receives a notice from the superintendent or director under
15 subsection (5) or (8) of this section concerning the defendant's progress or lack thereof, the com-
16 mitting court shall determine, after a hearing, if a hearing is requested, whether the defendant
17 presently has the capacity to stand trial.

18 (10)(a) If at any time the court determines that the defendant lacks the capacity to stand trial,
19 the court shall further determine whether there is a substantial probability that the defendant, in
20 the foreseeable future, will gain or regain the capacity to stand trial and whether the defendant is
21 entitled to discharge under subsection (7) of this section.

22 (b) If the court determines that there is no substantial probability that the defendant, in the
23 foreseeable future, will gain or regain the capacity to stand trial or that the defendant is entitled
24 to discharge under subsection (7) of this section, the court shall dismiss, without prejudice, all
25 charges against the defendant and:

26 [(a)] (A) Order that the defendant be discharged; or

27 [(b)] (B) Initiate commitment proceedings under ORS 426.070 or 427.235 to 427.290.

28 (c) **If the court orders that all charges against the defendant be dismissed and that the**
29 **defendant be discharged under this subsection, and the district attorney informs the court**
30 **that charges will be filed against the defendant upon the defendant's discharge, the court**
31 **shall order that the superintendent or the director evaluate the defendant before the**
32 **defendant's discharge for the purpose of determining whether the defendant has the capacity**
33 **to stand trial.**

34 (11) All notices required under this section shall be filed with the clerk of the court and deliv-
35 ered to both the district attorney and the counsel for the defendant.

36 (12) If the defendant regains fitness to proceed, the term of any sentence received by the de-
37 fendant for conviction of the crime charged shall be reduced by the amount of time the defendant
38 was committed under this section to the custody of a state mental hospital, or to the custody of a
39 secure intensive community inpatient facility, designated by the Oregon Health Authority.

40 (13) Notwithstanding the suspension of the criminal proceeding under subsection (2) of this
41 section, the fact that the defendant is unfit to proceed does not preclude any objection through
42 counsel and without the personal participation of the defendant on the grounds that the indictment
43 is insufficient, that the statute of limitations has run, that double jeopardy principles apply or upon
44 any other ground at the discretion of the court which the court deems susceptible of fair determi-
45 nation prior to trial.

1 **SECTION 2.** The amendments to ORS 161.370 by section 1 of this 2013 Act apply to the
2 discharge of defendants who are civilly committed on or after the effective date of this 2013
3 Act.
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