

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 939 - A

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Directs Department of Corrections to enter into contracts with nonprofit entities to create programs to assist children of incarcerated parents.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Corrections (DOC), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Justice (DOJ), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD)

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2015-17 Biennium	2017-19 Biennium
General Fund	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Total General Fund	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The bill appropriates \$2,000,000 General Fund to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for the 2015-17 biennium, and requires DOC to contract with nonprofit entities to establish a program to assist the children of incarcerated parents. The bill specifies the training and support that must be provided by the program. DOC is required to report the results of the evaluation process to a Legislative committee biannually. The bill authorizes DOC to solicit and apply for grants, gifts, donations and other moneys to fund this program.

Department of Corrections (DOC)

DOC anticipates using the appropriated funds to contract with nonprofit entities to carry out the provisions of the bill. Existing staff in the Department's Offender Management and Rehabilitation Division will administer the programs and the contracts, as well as produce the required biannual report in collaboration with the DOC Research Unit.

The bill requires DOC to offer two monthly therapeutic, face-to-face visitation sessions between parent and child for a minimum of three hours per session. DOC's Operations Division would be involved during visitations when the parents, children, and contractors meet. DOC assumes all of the visits can take place in its existing visiting areas during regularly scheduled visiting hours. If mandated visits are not able to be accommodated, then visiting hours may be expanded at the cost of additional staffing or other visiting would be limited to accommodate the mandated visiting. The costs relating to these visits may come from the funds appropriated in the bill, if necessary.

DOC is unsure if the program will continue into future biennia. Note that without assurance that the program will continue, the spending in the first biennium may be hindered due to the length of the contracting process. These contracts would need to be developed through a Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitation as well as being review by the Department of Justice before they could be placed. Therefore, the program participation may be reduced in the first biennium.

The bill allows DOC to apply for grants from public or private entities in order to fund the program. DOC will use existing staff and resources to identify and apply for these funds. This could lead to additional funding sources in the future but the amounts are unknown, at this time

Department of Human Services (DHS)

The fiscal impact of this bill on DHS is minimal. The bill requires DHS to participate with DOC and the contracted nonprofit entities to establish and perform an evaluation process to monitor the effectiveness of the required program. In addition, for incarcerated parents who are eligible for services provided by DHS, the Department is required to cooperate with DOC and contracted nonprofit entities to assist those incarcerated parents in accessing the appropriate services provided by DHS. The Department reports that these requirements are existing practice for the Department.

Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) and Department of Justice (DOJ)

This bill is anticipated to have no fiscal to OJD and DOJ. Passage of the bill will have no impact on court operations, and DOJ will provide legal services to assist DOC as part of the agency's routine advice function.

The long term impact of this bill could reduce recidivism and results in savings for state Public Safety agencies, but those savings are indeterminate.