

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/14/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 04/07, 04/14**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Corrections (DOC) contract with nonprofits to provide specific programs and supports for incarcerated parents and their children. Requires specific evaluation and twice-yearly reporting to legislature. Directs Department of Human Services and nonprofits participation. Appropriates \$2 million General Fund for 2015-2017 biennium to implement.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Similar past programs
- Number of inmates that are parents
- Following best practices
- Demonstrated results

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

States primary and secondary goals of program and support. Specifies gender-appropriate training. Requires Department of Corrections (DOC) provide support that takes trauma into account. Requires mental health professionals with particular training. Specifies requirements of parenting training. Specifies requirements of parent-child interaction. Adds further requirements: facilitation of parent-teacher conferences; intensive communications between parents and caregivers; funding for transportation and lodging; physical space for activities; home services referrals; attorney referrals; assistance with state agencies and nonprofits; and measureable outcomes connected to goals. Requires DOC perform evaluation process with Department of Human Services' (DHS) and nonprofits' participation. Requires determination whether goals are met and surveys of incarcerated parents, in addition to comparison of outcomes. Replaces annual reporting requirement with biannual reporting. Requires DHS cooperate with DOC and nonprofits in accessing state assistance for eligible inmates.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2010, the Department of Corrections (DOC) funded the Family Preservation Project (FPP) at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. Its mission was to arrest the cycle of criminal justice involvement, poverty, and addiction affecting families with an incarcerated parent or parents. FPP provided holistic family-centered services designed to positively rebuild bonds and maintain incarcerated mothers' relationships with their children and their children's caregivers, with intensive case management and education, as informed by best practices. FPP participants achieved significantly improved outcomes.

According to DOC, as of 2002, more than 15,000 Oregon children had a parent in prison; with mandatory sentencing, the number of incarcerated parents continues to increase.

Senate Bill 939-A requires certain, specific family services and supports be provided by DOC, as administered by a nonprofit, with the participation and assistance of the Department of Human Services.