

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 844 - 1

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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

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Measure Description:

Authorizes Department of Corrections to collect portion of certain moneys in inmate trust account for transitional fund and payment of court-ordered financial obligations.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Department of Revenue (DOR), Department of Corrections, Department of Justice, Judicial Department

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Summary of Revenue Impact: See Analysis

Analysis:

The measure allows the Department of Corrections (DOC) to collect certain monies from an inmate trust account if the inmate owes court-ordered financial obligations, such as compensatory fines, restitution awards, court-appointed attorney fees, child support obligations, or civil judgements. The measure directs the Judicial Department and Department of Justice to provide an account to DOC of the obligations owed by each inmate. Initial data reported by DOC indicates that inmates, on average, have around \$120 per month deposited into their individual trust accounts, but these amounts can vary substantially.

The amount of money that might be collected and deposited into the Criminal Fines Account as a result of this measure is indeterminate.

DOC notes that the current information technology system that tracks inmate trust accounts, referred to as TAG, is not currently capable of processing the payments that would be necessary under this measure. DOC notes that its proposed budget for 2017-19 includes \$500,000 of XI-Q bonds to upgrade the system. The planned upgrade does not include allowance for payment of court-ordered obligations. In order to include that in the upgrade, DOC anticipates needing an additional \$275,000 in bonds to finance the one-time enhancements. Along with the additional bond monies, there would be expenditures of approximately \$40,000 for the costs of bond issuance. General Fund debt service payments would be determined by the interest rates at the time of issuance.

There is a minimal fiscal impact as a result of this measure for the Department of Revenue, Department of Justice and Judicial Department, and no fiscal impact to the Department of Administrative Services.