

SB 241 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability

Meeting Dates: 4/3, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes certain essential rights of children of incarcerated parents. Establishes Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Parents. Requires task force to submit report and implementation plan to Legislative Assembly by June 30, 2018, and every year after. Sunsets task force December 31, 2021. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of Reentry Task Force work related to children of incarcerated parents
- Importance of rights for children of incarcerated parents to help provide crisis services for children
- Current practice for parent/child meetings while incarcerated
- Importance of stabilizing families and helping child understand situation
- Necessity to make agency actions are in child's best interest and subject to practical limitations
- Possible amendments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Establishes certain essential rights as "bill of rights of children of incarcerated parents." Requires Department of Corrections to assign implementation of bill of rights to a public body.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

BACKGROUND:

Nationally, there was a nearly 80 percent increase in the number of incarcerated people that are parents between 1991 and 2007. Around half of children with incarcerated parents were under 10 years old. In Oregon, there are around 70,000 children who have had or currently have parents in incarceration. Children with incarcerated parents can experience a variety of detrimental impacts, including added financial burdens on families, mental and physical health issues, higher incidence of needing public assistance programs, and impacts from issues related to reintegrating parents into the family and society after being released from incarceration.

Senate Bill 241 establishes certain essential rights for children of incarcerated parents, including rights related to informing and caring for the child during parent's incarceration, child involvement in decision making processes, and maintaining a relationship and contact with parent in incarceration. The measure also establishes a Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Parents. The task force is required to submit an annual report to the legislature beginning on June 30, 2018 regarding an implementation plan, an outreach and education plan, and recommendations.