

SB 692 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/28/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates money from General Fund to create pre-entry pilot program. Directs Metropolitan Public Defender Services to administer program. Directs Public Defense Services Commission to report on result of program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of social worker assisting with pre-entry
- Types of matters that should be addressed before incarceration
- How this would prevent recidivism
- Financial cost

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 969 to create the Task Force on Reentry, Employment and Housing (task force). The task force was directed to study and recommend methods and actions that state and local governments could take to assist persons reentering society following incarceration. As part of its work, the task force learned of the pre-entry program at Metropolitan Public Defender Services (MPDS). This program assists persons in preparing for incarceration, such as teaching them how to defer or suspend financial obligations during incarceration. The task force recommended establishing a pre-entry services program.

Senate Bill 692-A appropriates money from the General Fund to create a pre-entry pilot program administered by Metropolitan Public Defender Services in Multnomah and one rural county. SB 692-A also directs MPDS to develop a pre-entry checklist, partner with the Department of Corrections and collect data on the results of the program. MPDS must submit this data to the Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC). PDSC must review and report on this data to the Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2019.