

SB 844 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/12/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Manning Jr, Prozanski

Nays: 2 - Linthicum, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Department of Corrections (DOC) to collect portion of certain amounts in inmate trust account for transitional fund and payment of court-ordered financial obligations. Specifies procedures for collection and disbursement of money. Defines key terms. Directs Department of Justice and Judicial Department to provide accounting of court-ordered financial obligations to DOC.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Modeled after program in Minnesota
- Average amount of money in an inmate trust account
- How the tier repayment system works

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Clarifies that fees include court-appointed attorney fees imposed in criminal action.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 844-A creates procedures for the Department of Corrections (DOC) to collect certain amounts from an inmate's trust account for a transitional fund and payment of court-ordered financial obligations. It defines key terms, such as eligible moneys. It specifies the percentage of funds that DOC may collect from an inmate's trust account and how those funds are dispersed, including establishing a priority tier system for payment of court-ordered financial obligations. SB 844-A directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) to provide DOC with an accounting of each inmate's court-ordered financial obligations. DOJ and OJD are also required to apply the money received from DOC to the inmate's court-ordered financial obligations. SB 844-A allows DOC, DOJ and OJD to create subaccounts for the moneys. These procedures are operative June 30, 2018 but DOC, DOJ and OJD can take necessary action prior to the operative date.