

SB 241 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/17/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting subsequent referral to General Government and Accountability and Ways and Means be rescinded. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

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

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Overview of Reentry Task Force work related to children of incarcerated parents
- Collateral impacts on children when a parent is incarcerated
- Current practice for parent/child meetings during incarceration
- Family stability and helping children understand
- Conforming agency actions to child's best interests; practical limitations
- Governor's Reentry Council as likely public body for implementation of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Nationally, between 1991 and 2007, there was an increase of almost 80 percent in the number of incarcerated people with children, and around half of the children were under 10 years old. In Oregon, there are around 70,000 children who have had or currently have incarcerated parents. Children with incarcerated parents can experience a variety of stress and detrimental impacts, including those that result from added financial burdens on families, mental and physical health issues, and difficulties that arise when a parent is reintegrating back into a family and society.

Senate Bill 241-A establishes certain essential rights for children of incarcerated parents as a "bill of rights of children of incarcerated parents." It includes rights related to maintaining relationships between parents and children, informing and caring for children during a parent's incarceration, consideration of children's wishes in decision making processes, and maintaining a relationship and contact with parents in incarceration. The Department of Corrections is responsible for assigning implementation to a public body.