

SB 935 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/13/17

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski

Exc: 1 - Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases maximum length of transitional leave program for eligible offenders from 90 to 180 days. Eliminates reduction to 30 days in 2023. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 94% of offenders successfully complete program
- Lower recidivism rate for offenders who participate in the program compared to eligible offenders who do not participate
- Offender must receive approval from community corrections and Department of Corrections; agencies not required to authorize maximum number of days
- Reduced use of prison beds and impact on need to open additional prison
- Truth in sentencing; eligibility for transitional leave announced in open court
- Effect of cumulative sentence reductions
- Moratorium on sentencing changes

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 421.168 requires the Department of Corrections to administer a transitional leave program that provides eligible inmates with the opportunity to secure appropriate transitional support when necessary for successful reintegration into the community. The program requires the Department to work with community corrections agencies to assist eligible inmates in identifying and applying for an employment, educational or other transitional opportunity in the community. The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission has studied the impact of short term transitional leave and has made statistical information available on their website.

Under current law, the maximum length of transitional leave is 90 days and is scheduled to be reduced to 30 days in 2023. Senate Bill 935 would eliminate the scheduled reduction and provide for a maximum period of 180 days for many offenders, while limiting specified offenders to a maximum period of 90 days.