

HB 2515 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 1/31, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides individuals committed to lockup facilities, local correctional facilities, regional correctional facilities, the Department of Corrections and the Oregon Youth Authority with tampons and sanitary napkins at no cost. Requires facilities to keep a sufficient supply of those products on hand.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to provide products for postpartum and post-menopausal individuals.
- Use of gender-neutral language.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Replaces the measure. Directs lockup facilities, local correctional facilities, regional correctional facilities, the Department of Corrections, juvenile detention facilities, and the Oregon Youth Authority to provide individuals in their care with a range of sanitary products--including postpartum sanitary napkins. Requires facilities to keep a sufficient supply of those products on hand. Ensures that individuals who need sanitary supplies have access to them regardless of gender identity.

BACKGROUND:

Current law is silent on whether correctional and detention facilities must provide menstruation products to individuals in their care. On August 1, 2017, the Federal Bureau of Prisons issued a new policy requiring that all female inmates have access to a range of mensuration products, including "Tampons, regular and supersize; Maxi Pads with wings, regular and supersize; and Panty Liners, regular size" at no cost to the women in its facilities. In December 2018, the Warden at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility—the only women’s facility in the Oregon Department of Corrections—changed the prison’s policy to begin providing women with generic regular tampons at no cost. After surveying its membership, the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association found that most local and regional jails already provided tampons to women in their facilities free of charge, but also announced that it would add the provision of tampons to its guidelines for jail standards and best practices. The Oregon Youth Authority reports that it has provided tampons, panty liners, and sanitary pads at no cost to the youth in its facilities for many years.

House Bill 2515 requires lockup facilities, local correctional facilities, regional correctional facilities, the Department of Corrections and the Oregon Youth Authority to provide tampons and sanitary napkins to individuals in their facilities at no cost.