

SB 777 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Prison Education to study existing prisoner education and training programs; barriers to access to such programs; and options and opportunities for expanding, updating, and improving such programs. Requires task force to submit report to legislature no later than September 15, 2020. Sunsets on December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Adds a representative from HECC and Oregon Correction Enterprises to the Task Force on Prison Education. Assigns Legislative Policy and Research Director as staff support for task force, rather than Governor's office.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the legislature passed Senate Bill 969 creating the Joint Interim Task Force on Reentry, Employment and Housing. In 2017, the legislature passed Senate Bill 689 which continued the work of the task force through the 2017-18 interim. The task force was formed to assess current barriers to the successful reentry of individuals into mainstream society after incarceration and to propose possible solutions. One barrier identified was the need for expanded educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals to help them to build their resumes, expand their knowledge and skills, and access jobs upon reentry. Senate Bill 777 creates a legislative task force to study existing prisoner education and training programs; barriers to accessing such programs, including space and budget limitations; and options and opportunities for expanding, updating, and improving such programs.