

SB 949 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$350,000 to the University of Oregon and \$150,000 to Blue Mountain Community Colleges for educational programs in Oregon correctional facilities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 949 provides funding to University of Oregon and Blue Mountain Community College to support and expand prison education programs.