

HB 2258 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/1, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Office of Governor to conduct a study on family treatment courts. Requires the Office of the Governor to report the results of the study to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Instructs the Oregon Judicial Department to develop and support a Family Dependency Treatment Courts (FDTC) model program. Establishes FDTC in Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, and Marion Counties for parents of children over whom the juvenile court has jurisdiction under ORS 419B.100 and substances abuse is a basis of jurisdiction. Requires that each FDTC has a dedicated judge, prioritizes docket time for FDTC, adheres to treatment court best practice standards and includes all parties to the dependency case under ORS 419B.872 in the FDTC proceedings. Requires the Office of the State Court Administrator to provide regular training, peer-to-peer learning and periodic stakeholder convenings; develop standards; provide technical assistance, develop and disseminate performance measures and statistical reports; and contract with an external evaluator to evaluate each court's outcomes. Requires an evaluation of the FDTC's efficacy and outcomes. Requires the judicial department to reported those outcomes to the Legislative Assembly every two years. Appropriates moneys for the implementation of the FDTCs. Becomes effective sine die; becomes operative January 1, 2020. Sunsets this pilot program January 2, 2025

BACKGROUND:

According to the 2017 DHS Data Book, in 2017, 11,645 children spent at least one day in some kind of foster care. The most common reason for placement was drug or alcohol abuse, over 65% of the children who entered foster care in 2017 did so because their parent(s) had a drug or alcohol abuse problem.

One promising child welfare practice is the use Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) for families where a parent's substance abuse has created a necessity for child welfare intervention. The purpose of FDTC is to guide child-welfare-involved families with substance abuse issues into treatment with intensive judicial supervision. This, in turn, is meant to reduce drug and alcohol dependence, reduce child welfare and criminal recidivism, and improve the quality of life for participating families.

The Clark County Washington FDTC was evaluated in 2015. According to the NPC Research Brief, the results of that evaluation showed that children of program participants were less likely to be physically abused and significantly less likely to be neglected 2 years post program entry than children whose parents were eligible but did not participate. Children of the program were also more likely to be reunified and stay reunified than children whose parent's were eligible but did not participate. Finally parents who participated were less likely to be re-arrested two years after program reentry. NPC Research calculated a \$10,230 savings per FDTC participant totaling a nearly \$3 million dollar savings over the course of five years.

House Bill 2258 directs the Office of Governor to conduct a study on family treatment courts and report the results of that study to the legislature before September 15, 2020.

PRELIMINARY