

SB 975 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to conduct study of prisoner reentry programs on rates of recidivism. Requires report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Allows individual convicted of marijuana offense request reduction of offense classification if the crime has since been reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor, reduced from a felony to a violation, reduced from a higher level felony to a lower level one, or reduced from a higher level misdemeanor to a lower level one. Provides that person requesting reduction is not required to pay any fee or file set of fingerprints. Allows process for prosecuting attorney to object. Directs court to vacate original judgment and enter new judgment if deemed appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, Oregon voters passed Initiative 91 which allowed for the creation of a recreational marijuana market. Under Initiative 91 and additional legislation passed by the Legislative Assembly, members of the public are allowed to grow, sell, and consume marijuana under certain conditions. However, neither Initiative 91 nor subsequent legislation addressed individuals with criminal convictions under marijuana related laws that are no longer in effect or which have had the classification reduced.

Senate Bill 975 directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to conduct study of prisoner reentry programs on rates of recidivism. Requires report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2020.