

SB 949 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Heard, Thomsen, Wagner

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$350,000 to University of Oregon and \$150,000 to Blue Mountain Community College for educational programs in Oregon correctional facilities. Declares emergency, effective on July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prison education issues
- Prison education task force
- Reentry issues
- University of Oregon's Inside Out Program
- Blue Mountain Community College's prison education programs
- Career and technical education programs
- Effect of educational opportunities on recidivism
- Need for more resources, such as funding for teachers, technology, and classroom space
- Non-credit and credit offerings
- Number of incarcerated students served
- Public safety benefits of prison education programs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the legislature passed Senate Bill 969, which created 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 build their resumes, expand their knowledge and skills, and access jobs upon reentry. Senate Bill 949 provides state funding to the University of Oregon and Blue Mountain Community College to support and expand prison education programs.