A-Bill for an Act

Relating to domestic violence; creating new provisions; amending ORS 137.651; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:
(a) “Domestic violence” means abuse, as defined in ORS 107.705.

(b) “Victim of domestic violence” means an individual against whom domestic violence has been committed.

(2) The Domestic Violence Committee is established within the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

(3) The committee consists of 13 members, as follows:
(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the Senate.
(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among members of the House of Representatives.

(c) The Governor shall appoint five members who are subject to confirmation by the Senate pursuant to Article III, section 4, of the Oregon Constitution, and who are from among the following with expertise in areas of domestic violence or in providing resources and services in response to domestic violence in this state:
(A) One member who represents district attorneys or law enforcement-based victim services advocates.
(B) One member who is a nonprofit victim services advocate.
(C) One member who is a victim advocate serving culturally specific populations.
(D) One member who is a representative of a federally recognized Indian tribe.
(E) One member who represents the civil legal services community.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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(d) The Attorney General shall appoint one member who represents the Crime Victims' Assistance Section of the Criminal Justice Division of the Department of Justice.

(e) The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee.

(f) The Director of the Oregon Health Authority or a designee of the director.

(g) The Director of Human Services or a designee of the director.

(h) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education.

(i) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries or a designee of the commissioner.

(4) The primary roles of the committee are to:

(a) Facilitate coordination between state agencies and organizations that provide services in response to domestic violence;

(b) Advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly regarding policies and best practices for state agency response to domestic violence;

(c) Provide training for state agencies regarding the intersection of domestic violence and the services provided by the state agencies; and

(d) Increase public awareness regarding issues relating to domestic violence.

(5)(a) The committee shall undertake the following tasks and provide the following informed, data-driven recommendations:

(A) Review the state's laws regarding domestic violence and make recommendations to resolve statutory and administrative inconsistencies;

(B) Make recommendations to members of the criminal justice system regarding improvements to procedures relating to domestic violence;

(C) Make recommendations for remedying criminal justice system practices that hinder a victim of domestic violence from getting to safety and security;

(D) Study and make recommendations to improve any other aspects of the criminal justice system that do not prevent or ameliorate domestic violence;

(E) Prepare and publish reports on critical domestic violence issues;

(F) Develop opportunities for interagency networking and multi-disciplinary approaches to addressing domestic violence;

(G) Coordinate with organizations and state advisory committees, task forces, agencies, boards and commissions that provide services relating to domestic violence;

(H) Identify domestic violence training requirements of state agencies, conduct initial training and develop and implement a plan for ongoing training;

(I) Identify domestic violence technical assistance requirements of state agencies and develop a technical assistance plan; and

(J) Identify needed supplemental supports for programs that intersect with domestic violence issues, including, but not limited to, mental health services, child welfare, housing and homelessness services, criminal and civil justice and teen dating violence services.

(b) To the extent practicable, the committee shall consult with and engage domestic violence stakeholders, including members of the criminal justice system, in the development of the committee's recommendations under this subsection.

(6) The committee chairperson may create any subcommittees within the committee as the chairperson considers necessary.

(7) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the committee are nonvoting members of the committee and may act in an advisory capacity only.
(8) A majority of the voting members of the committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(9) Official action by the committee requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the committee.

(10) The committee shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

(11) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(12) The committee may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the committee.

(13) The committee shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the Governor and the interim legislative committees related to human services, judiciary, domestic relations and domestic violence no later than September 15 of each even-numbered year.

(14) The commission shall provide staff support to the committee.

(15) The committee shall meet at least once a month, at a time and place determined by the committee. The committee shall also meet at such other times and places as are specified by a call of the committee chairperson. If a majority of the voting members, in writing, requests a special meeting, the committee chairperson shall designate a time for a special meeting as requested.

SECTION 2. ORS 137.651 is amended to read:

ORS 137.651. As used in ORS 137.654, 137.656 and 137.658 and section 1 of this 2019 Act:

(1) “Commission” means the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

(2) “Criminal justice system” includes all activities and agencies, whether state or local, public or private, pertaining to the prevention, prosecution and defense of offenses, the disposition of offenders under the criminal law and the disposition or treatment of juveniles adjudicated to have committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would be a crime. [The] “Criminal justice system” includes police, public prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, correction systems, mental health agencies, crime victims and all public and private agencies providing services in connection with those elements, whether voluntarily, contractually or by order of a court.

SECTION 3. The report described in section 1 (13) of this 2019 Act is first due no later than September 15, 2020.

SECTION 4. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.