

HB 4131 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Addie Smith, Counsel

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) in collaboration with the Department of Corrections, to establish a Family Preservation Project pilot program administered by the YWCA of Greater Portland at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Designates program goals. Requires biannual program analysis by the CJC. Appropriates moneys. Sunsets program January 1, 2027. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Eighty-four percent of incarcerated women are mothers and over half of them will not see their children during their prison sentence. Since the early 2000s the YWCA of Greater Portland has hosted a program for incarcerated women called the Family Preservation Project (FPP). The FPP provides targeted support to incarcerated mothers to increase self-reliance, family stability, and successful parenting upon reentry. Research conducted in 2014 found that participants in the FPP were more likely to be parenting post-incarcerated and that their children had better educational outcomes than mothers and families who did not participate in the FPP. The Intensive Family Reunification component of the program has demonstrated a recidivism rate of just over three percent as compared to the 30 percent recidivism rate generally for post-incarcerated individuals in Oregon.

House Bill 4131 directs the CJC in collaboration with DOJ to establishes a Family Preservation Project pilot program administered by the YWCA of Greater Portland at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility to be reviewed biannually until the program sunsets January 1, 2027. Declares emergency; effective on passage.