FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Directs Department of Corrections to develop plan for providing equipment, connectivity and infrastructure necessary to ensure that adults in custody have online access to certain education programs.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Corrections (DOC), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact - Department of Corrections (DOC):

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund		
Personal Services	2,515,915	6,809,953
Services and Supplies	1,324,428	348,605
Total General Fund	\$3,840,343	\$7,158,558
Positions	38	38
FTE	25.75	38.00

Analysis:

SB 235 requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to develop a plan for providing the equipment, connectivity and infrastructure necessary to ensure that adults in custody have online access to the adult basic skills development program, the professional and technical program, and educational programs approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The measure requires DOC to submit this plan to the Legislative Assembly by August 1, 2021. DOC must ensure that all adults in custody have online access to the adult basic skills development program, the professional and technical program, and educational programs approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) by September 1, 2022.

Department of Corrections (DOC)

DOC estimates the fiscal impact of providing online access to the adult basic skills development program, the professional and technical program, and educational programs approved by the HECC to be \$3,840,343 General Fund, 38 positions, 25.75 FTE for the 2021-23 biennium; and \$7,158,558, 38 positions, 38.00 FTE for the 2023-25 biennium. These cost projections assume providing access to 10% or 1,250 of the adults in custody (AIC) population at 11 institutions, 5 evenings a week, and minimal wiring to add wireless capability only to existing classrooms and not throughout the institution. The cost projections also include 1,250 laptops and docking stations, as well as 19 administrative, 8 information technology, and 11 security staffing.

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Public Universities, Community Colleges

Passage of this measure is anticipated to have minimal fiscal impact for HECC, community colleges, and public universities. Potential costs are related to information technology upgrades, including modifying firewall configurations, in order to comply with the provisions of this measure.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for the consideration of General Fund impact and position authority.