

HB 4146 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/08/22

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-2-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Bynum, Dexter, Helm, Kropf, Lewis, Noble, Power, Wilde

Nays: 2 - Morgan, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Amie Fender-Sosa, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Declares that incarcerated women face unique challenges. Directs the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to contract with a third-party organization to conduct an assessment of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (Coffee Creek) for the purposes of establishing a baseline for a strategic planning process, policy recommendations, and improved protections for those serving sentences in Coffee Creek. Directs the Governor to designate at least one person as the corrections gender-responsive coordinator (coordinator). Delineates the duties of the coordinator, which include ensuring that those who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated are able to participate in the assessment process, creating a Gender Responsive Advisory Council (council) consisting of justice-involved individuals, and reporting to the Legislative Assembly and the interim committees related to the judiciary by September 1, 2024. Requires the coordinator and the council to meet at least quarterly to allow the council to provide input on the assessment and development of evidence-based, gender-responsive and trauma-informed practices at Coffee Creek. Defines "culturally responsive," "gender responsive," "listening session" and "trauma-informed." Sunsets January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reintegration outcomes for families
- Differences in challenges faced by women in custody versus men in custody
- Male-centric prison design
- Utilizing Gender-Informed Practice Assessments (GIPA)
- Language specificity regarding DOC cooperating in the process and providing access to facilities and adults in custody
- Constitutionality and gender-neutral language
- Legislative intent

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies report due date to Sept. 1, 2024. Sunsets measure January 2, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

National data on women in prison indicates women often intersect with the criminal justice system for reasons that are different than men. There are additional common characteristics of incarcerated women that are generally different than the male prison population, including histories of abuse and trauma, lower educational attainment, and mental health issues. Many women in prison were also primary caregivers for their children before entering the system. Despite a large amount of research on Oregon's prison practices and adults in custody, little of that research focuses on the needs of women in prison and the dynamics experienced by women in prison. Coffee Creek Correctional Facility is Oregon's only prison for women.

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House Bill 4146 A directs the Department of Administrative Services to contract with a third-party organization to conduct an assessment of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for the purposes of establishing a baseline for a strategic planning process, policy recommendations, and improved protections for those serving sentences in Coffee Creek.