FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2022 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Directs Department of Corrections, in cooperation with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to establish a Pilot Program to provide legal services to assist adults in custody who are serving sentences at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility to reenter and reintegrate into local communities, to reduce vulnerability to domestic violence and to obtain employment, housing services and other benefits.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Corrections (DOC), Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

This measure directs the Department of Corrections (DOC), in cooperation with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to establish a Pilot Program. The purpose of this program is to provide legal services to assist adults in custody who are serving sentences at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility to reenter and reintegrate into local communities, to reduce vulnerability to domestic violence and to obtain employment, housing services and other benefits; this program is repealed on December 31, 2024. This measure directs CJC to grant funding to the Oregon Justice Resource Center (OJRC) to employ three attorneys and provide necessary support for the attorney's work. CJC and OJRC shall evaluate the operations and success of the program and report results to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to corrections by September 15, 2023. This measure declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

This measure is intending to restart the pilot program established under HB 2631 (2019) that sunset on December 31, 2021. Most recently, HB 5006 (2021) provided CJC with \$500,000 for this pilot program. While the program recently sunset, CJC currently has an individual on staff doing the financial tracking and data collection for funding already distributed and it is anticipated that staff will be able to continue in that role. The agency anticipates providing grant funding to OJRC for salary, fringe, and support costs for three attorneys to cover the rest of the 2021-23 biennium program expenditures. The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that additional funding will be provided in HB 5202 (2022) for CJC to grant to OJRC for the 2021-23 biennium.

DOC estimates the fiscal impact of this measure to be minimal.