HB 2731 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By:Lucy Ohlsen, LPRO AnalystSub-Referral To:Joint Committee On Ways and MeansMeeting Dates:2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), in collaboration with the Department of Corrections (DOC), to establish the Family Preservation pilot program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (Coffee Creek). Requires the program be administered by the YWCA of Greater Portland (YWCA). Sets goals for the program, including reducing recidivism and trauma experienced by children of incarcerated parents. Permits program to provide services to parents incarcerated at Coffee Creek, children of the parents and caregivers of the children if eligible based on provided guidelines. Requires YWCA and DOC to contribute services and resources to the program. Requires CJC to contribute data collection, research and analysis support. Requires CJC, DOC and representatives of the program to meet quarterly with other state agencies to discuss and provide updates on implementation and outcomes of the program. Requires CJC to report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026 and every two years thereafter. Appropriates money to the CJC. Program sunsets on January 1, 2031. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Family Preservation Project is a program administered by the YWCA of Greater Portland that provides family-centered services for adults in custody and children of adults in custody at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. The program helps adults in custody maintain connections with their families and prepare for reintegration with society upon release. The program has been in existence since 2010, when it began as a partnership between the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Portland Community College. In 2014, the program's budget was cut and the program was discontinued. In 2015, the YWCA of Greater Portland took over the administration of the program through legislation. The Legislative Assembly appropriated money from the general fund to the program in 2015 and 2017, but not 2019, leaving the program unfunded. The Legislative Assembly restored funding for the program in 2021 with a \$650,000 appropriation, which was one piece of \$109.9 million total appropriations to grant and/or research programs operated by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).

House Bill 2731 would direct the CJC, in collaboration with the DOC, to establish the Family Preservation pilot program administered by the YWCA of Greater Portland at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility; codifies goals, services, and reporting requirements for the program; and appropriates money to the program for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023.