

SB 903 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser Blouin

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/14/23

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Nays: 1 - Linthicum

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) to include race data among demographic data collected of adjudicated youth in OYA's care, and to collect demographics of OYA employees, including race, ethnicity, and gender. Directs OYA to take into consideration the demographic disparities among adjudicated youths, and between adjudicated youths and youth authority employees, when developing culturally appropriate programs. Requires OYA to regularly review and analyze disparities in measurable outcomes based on the demographics of persons in OYA custody.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Codifying current practices into law
- Lack of definition of culturally appropriate
- Solutions to address overrepresentation of certain youth in custody

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is a fundamental partner in Oregon's juvenile justice system. Its statutory purpose is to protect the public, hold youth offenders accountable for their actions, and provide youth offenders with opportunities for reform in safe environments. Under current law, OYA is required to be cognizant of, and sensitive to, the issue of overrepresentation of minorities in youth correction facilities. OYA is required to endeavor to develop and operate culturally appropriate programs and to keep data reflecting the ethnicity and gender of all adjudicated youths committed to the agency's care.

Senate Bill 903 directs OYA to take into consideration the demographic disparities among adjudicated youths, and between adjudicated youths and youth authority employees, when developing culturally appropriate programs. The bill directs OYA to regularly review and analyze disparities in measurable outcomes based on the demographics of the persons in the agency's custody. Senate Bill 903 also requires OYA to collect additional data reflecting demographics, including race, of adjudicated youth in the agency's care, as well as data reflecting the demographics, including race, ethnicity, and gender, of agency employees.