

HB 3300 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Addie Smith, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Corrections to conduct a study on the provision of treatment services to persons in custody of department. Directs the department to present a report on the findings to the Legislative Assembly before September 15, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) in collaboration with the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to establish the Center for Incarcerated Parents and their Children at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility to be administered by the YWCA. Provides goals for the Center. Requires the Center to provide an array of individualized, targeted, culturally appropriate, gender responsive and trauma informed services. Requires the YWCA to collect data. Requires the Criminal Justice Commission to work with the YWCA and any third-party contractors to track performance and provide data analysis that is to be presented to the Legislative Assembly before September 15, 2021 and every two years thereafter. Appropriates funding to the Criminal Justice Commission for distribution to the YWCA. Sunsets January 1, 2025.

Provides key definitions. Requires DOC to designate at least one employee as a gender-responsive officer who will, no later than October 15, 2020, conduct an assessment of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility to determine whether the processes, programs and protections at the facility—including the protections from and responses to sexual harassment and assault—are gender-responsive, culturally responsive and trauma informed. Requires the gender-responsive officer to provide a 10-year improvement plan. Requires the gender-responsive officer to convene an advisory council to aid in the assessment and development of the 10-year plan.

BACKGROUND:

Eighty-four percent of incarcerated women are mothers and over half of them will not see their children during their prison sentence. Since the early 2000s the YWCA of Greater Portland has hosted a program for incarcerated women called the Family Preservation Project (FPP). The Family Preservation Program provides targeted support to incarcerated mothers that increases their family protective factors and self-efficacy to promote successful parenting post-incarceration. Research conducted in 2014 found that participants in the FPP were more likely to be parenting post-incarcerated and that their children have better educational outcomes. The Intensive Family Reunification component of the program has demonstrated a recidivism rate in just over 3% as compared to the 30% recidivism rate generally for post-incarcerated individuals in Oregon.

Earlier this session, at the Criminal Justice Commission Justice Reinvestment Summit national experts presented on the importance of providing trauma-informed and gender responsive systems and programming for incarcerated women as a means to reducing recidivism. In 2016, the Illinois legislature passed H.B. 1479. That measure codified requirements to ensure that correctional institutions in Illinois provide "gender-responsive" and "trauma-informed practices" to women in their custody.

House Bill 3300 directs the Department of Corrections to conduct a study on the provision of treatment services to persons in custody of department and report the findings of that study to the legislature.