

HB 4040 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Family Treatment Courts (FTC) in Coos, Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, and Marion Counties. Sets standards for such courts. Provides for State Court Administrator support for such courts. Requires administrator to provide biennial reports to the Legislative Assembly. Appropriates moneys. Declares emergency; effective immediately.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the 2017 Department of Human Services Data Book, in 2018, 11,445 children spent at least one day in foster care. The most common reason for placement was drug or alcohol abuse. Over 58 percent of the children who entered foster care in 2018 did so because a parent had a drug or alcohol abuse problem.

Family Treatment Courts (FTC) are speciality courts for families where child welfare has intervened in a family's life because of a parent's substance abuse. The purpose of a FTC is to guide child-welfare-involved parents into treatment while providing intensive judicial supervision. In 2015, Washington State Family Treatment Court was formally evaluated. The results of that evaluation showed that children of program participants were less likely to be physically abused than children whose parents were eligible but did not participate, and also significantly less likely to be neglected two years after beginning participation in the FTC. Children of the program were also more likely to be reunified with their parents and stay reunified with their parents than children whose parents were eligible but did not participate. Finally, parents who participated in the FTC were less likely to be re-arrested two years after program reentry. Ultimately, because of these results, researchers calculated a \$10,230 savings per FTC participant totaling nearly \$3 million dollars in savings over the course of the five-year study.

House Bill 4040 directs the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) to develop and support Family Treatment Court programs in Coos, Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, and Marion Counties, appropriates moneys, and requires OJD to collect data and report outcomes to the legislature on a biannual basis.