80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2020 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Creates crime of unlawfully threatening a school or place of worship.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon State Police (OSP), Department of Justice (DOJ), Cities, Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), District Attorneys and their Deputies (DAs), Counties, Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC), Department of Corrections (DOC)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Analysis:

HB 4145 creates the crime of unlawfully threatening a school or place of worship. The new offense is a Class A misdemeanor. However, if the defendant has previously been convicted of unlawfully threatening a school or place of worship or disorderly conduct in the first degree, then the offense may be charged as a Class C felony. While this is a new crime, this behavior would likely have been previously charged as disorderly conduct in the first degree.

This bill also requires that the sentence for someone convicted of unlawfully threatening a school or place of worship include a term of supervised probation and a mental health assessment.

The Criminal Justice Commission estimates an additional 2 felony convictions per year for unlawfully threatening a school or place of worship, and that the crime will be sentenced at a crime seriousness level 4. The sentencing trends are assumed to be 3% sentenced to prison (average sentence length of 13.5 months), 53% sentenced to local control (average sentence length of 2.3 months), and 44% sentenced to probation (average sentence length of 24 months).

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) estimates the 2019-21 impact to be 3 prison bed days, 23 Post-Prison Supervision days, 54 probation days and 21 Local Control bed days.

Department of Corrections

For 2019-21 biennium, this bill is expected to have a fiscal impact of \$1,252 General Fund on the Department of Corrections (DOC), which will increase to \$17,723 General Fund in 2021-23.

HB 3194 (2013) requires a 10-year estimate of the fiscal impact for measures creating new crimes or impacting sentences. DOC anticipates the costs for the 2023-25 biennium to be \$28,443 General Fund, and then \$29,449 General Fund in 2025-27 and \$29,459 General Fund in 2027-29.

This bill is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Oregon State Police, the Department of Justice, the Oregon Judicial Department, District Attorneys and their Deputies, Cities, Counties, and the Public Defense Services Commission.