

## SB 235 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 04/05/21

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek, Robinson, Thomsen

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/8, 3/31, 4/5

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Corrections to develop a plan for providing distance learning technology and infrastructure to allow online access to education programs for adults in custody at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Snake River Correctional Institution and specifies requirements. Requires department to submit plan to interim legislative committees by December 31, 2021. Sunsets January 2, 2023. Requires Department of Corrections provide access to online education programs to adults in custody at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Snake River Correctional Institution by September 1, 2022. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Education programs offered to adults in custody
- Technology needs for adults in custody to access education during COVID-19 pandemic
- Geographic restrictions of education while in custody
- Value of education to reentry into community
- Projected cost of implementation
- Constitutional, statutory, and logistical restrictions
- Relationship with common course numbering and other credit transfer initiatives

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide an education system within each correctional institution for adults in custody. The stated objective of this education system is twofold: To implement a basic skills development program which assesses each adult's academic and intellectual competency, and to provide adults in custody with professional and occupational skills to prepare them for jobs post-release. DOC offers several educational programs to adults in custody, including preparation for the General Education Development (GED) high school equivalency test, English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, community college courses, and special education programs for adults in custody with disabilities. Senate Bill 235 A would allow adults in custody to access online educational content using equipment and infrastructure provided by DOC as a part of an educational program.

Senate Bill 235 A requires the Department of Corrections to develop a plan for a pilot program to provide distance learning technology and infrastructure to allow online access to education programs for adults in custody at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Snake River Correctional Institution, requires the department to submit the plan to interim legislative committees, and implement the plan by September 1, 2022.