

SB 1070 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires sentencing court to consider as mitigation evidence whether defendant was subjected to domestic abuse that was contributing factor in criminal behavior. Provides that, if established by a preponderance of the evidence, such evidence constitutes substantial and compelling reasons justifying downward departure sentence. Authorizes court to impose a lesser sentence even if sentence is mandatory or otherwise required by law. Creates procedure by which person currently serving sentence may petition court for resentencing if person was subjected to domestic abuse that was contributing factor in criminal behavior. Establishes Task Force on Services and Support for Incarcerated Domestic Violence Survivors. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon criminal statutes establish mandatory minimum sentences a court is required to impose based on the crime of conviction and a defendant's criminal history. An example of these types of sentences are those enacted by the Ballot Measure 11 initiative, passed by Oregon voters in 1994, requiring mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes codified as ORS 137.700 through 137.712.

Under ORS 137.080, after a plea or verdict of guilty, in a case where the court has discretion as to the extent of the punishment to be inflicted, the court may or, in some circumstances, is required, to consider certain factors in aggravation or mitigation of the punishment. However, a court may not consider mitigation evidence when imposing sentence for a crime that carries a statutory mandatory minimum similar to those cited above.

SB 1070 would authorize a court to impose a lesser sentence even if sentence is mandatory or otherwise required by law if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant was subjected to domestic abuse that was contributing factor in criminal behavior as outlined by measure.