

HB 2731 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/09/23

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 8-1-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Andersen, Chaichi, Conrad, Kropf, Lewis, Reynolds, Tran, Wallan

Nays: 1 - Morgan

Exc: 1 - Bynum

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lucy Ohlsen, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), in collaboration with the Department of Corrections (DOC), to establish the Family Preservation pilot program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (Coffee Creek). Requires the program be administered by the YWCA of Greater Portland (YWCA). Sets goals for the program, including reducing recidivism and trauma experienced by children of incarcerated parents. Permits program to provide services to parents incarcerated at Coffee Creek, children of the parents, and caregivers of the children if eligible based on program guidelines. Requires YWCA and DOC to contribute services and resources to the program. Requires CJC to contribute data collection, research, and analysis support. Requires CJC, DOC and representatives of the program to meet quarterly with other state agencies to discuss and provide updates on implementation and outcomes of the program. Requires CJC to report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026, and every two years thereafter. Appropriates an unspecified amount of money to the CJC for distribution to the YWCA for purposes of program. Program sunsets on January 1, 2031. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of incarceration on families with children
- Successes of past participants in Family Preservation Pilot Program
- Need for stable funding

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Family Preservation Project is an existing program administered by the YWCA of Greater Portland that provides family-centered services for adults in custody (AIC) and children of AICs at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. The program helps AICs maintain connections with their families and prepare for reintegration with society upon release. The program has been in existence since 2010, when it began as a partnership between the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Portland Community College. In 2014, the program did not receive funding and the program faced related challenges. In 2015, the YWCA of Greater Portland took over the administration of the program through legislation. The Legislative Assembly appropriated money from the General Fund to the program in 2015 and 2017, but not 2019, leaving the program unfunded. The Legislative Assembly restored funding for the program in 2021 with a \$650,000 appropriation, which was one piece of \$109.9 million total appropriations to grant and/or research programs operated by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC).

HB 2731 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 2731 directs the CJC, in collaboration with the DOC, to establish the Family Preservation pilot program administered by the YWCA of Greater Portland at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. It codifies goals, services, and reporting requirements for the program and appropriates money to the program for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023.