

SB 904 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Reynolds

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/26/23

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Andersen, Bynum, Chaichi, Conrad, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Reynolds, Tran, Wallan

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/20, 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) to ensure maximum allowable population levels of youth correctional facilities are consistent with minimum ratio of population to staff. Directs OYA to determine minimum ratio of population to staff. Removes language related to youths waived into adult court. Changes total population limit to include all persons placed in the physical custody of the OYA.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current law related to population levels in OYA facilities
- Increasing transparency
- Staff ratio requirements under Prison Rape Elimination Act

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is a fundamental partner in Oregon's juvenile justice system. Its statutory purpose is to protect the public, hold youth offenders accountable for their actions, and provide youth offenders with opportunities for reform in safe environments. The Oregon Youth Authority operates nine secure, close-custody facilities across the state, housing approximately 490 youth. Under current law, OYA is required to determine reasonable standards for care and treatment of individuals in its facilities. OYA is required to establish a maximum population level for each facility that cannot exceed the design capacity for the facility and must be limited by the ability of the facility to meet the standard of care and provide adequate services.

Senate Bill 904 A directs OYA to ensure that the maximum allowable population level for each facility is consistent with a minimum ratio of youth to staff responsible for the supervision of youth. The OYA must also establish the minimum ratio by administrative rule. The measure also removes outdated language related to youths waived into adult court and changes the total population limit to all persons in OYA's custody.