

**Enrolled**  
**House Bill 2405**

Sponsored by Representatives DIEHL, ANDERSEN; Representatives BYNUM, LEWIS (at the request of former Representative Raquel Moore-Green, Danielle Bethell) (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to fitness to proceed; amending ORS 161.367, 161.370 and 161.371.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1.** ORS 161.367 is amended to read:

161.367. (1) If at any time the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed, the court shall further determine whether there is a substantial probability that the defendant, in the foreseeable future, will gain or regain fitness to proceed. If the court determines that there is no substantial probability that the defendant, in the foreseeable future, will gain or regain fitness to proceed, the court shall dismiss, without prejudice **and in accordance with subsection (6) of this subsection**, all charges against the defendant and:

(a) Order that the defendant be discharged; or

(b) Initiate commitment proceedings under ORS 426.070, 426.701 or 427.235 to 427.290.

(2)(a) The superintendent of the hospital or director of the facility in which the defendant is committed under ORS 161.370 or a person examining the defendant as a condition of release to community restoration services shall notify the court if the defendant gains or regains fitness to proceed.

(b) A party to the case may notify the court if the defendant has gained or regained fitness to proceed.

(c) The court may, upon its own motion or the request of either party, hold a hearing to determine whether the defendant has gained or regained fitness to proceed. If the court determines that the defendant has gained or regained fitness to proceed, the court shall resume the criminal proceeding unless the court determines that so much time has elapsed since the commitment or release of the defendant to community restoration services that it would be unjust to resume the criminal proceeding. If the court determines that it would be unjust to resume the criminal proceeding, the court, on motion of either party, may dismiss the charge **in accordance with subsection (6) of this section**, and may order the defendant to be discharged or cause a proceeding to be commenced forthwith under ORS 426.070 to 426.170, 426.701 or 427.235 to 427.290.

(3) If the defendant gains or regains fitness to proceed, the defendant shall be given credit against each charge alleged in the accusatory instrument for each day the defendant was committed under ORS 161.370 to the custody of a state mental hospital, or to the custody of a secure intensive community inpatient facility designated by the Oregon Health Authority.

(4) Notwithstanding the suspension of the criminal proceeding under ORS 161.370 (2), the fact that the defendant is unfit to proceed does not preclude any objection through counsel and without the personal participation of the defendant on the grounds that the indictment is insufficient, that

the statute of limitations has run, that double jeopardy principles apply or upon any other ground at the discretion of the court which the court deems susceptible of fair determination prior to trial.

(5) At the time that the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed under ORS 161.370 (2), the court shall notify the defendant in writing that federal law prohibits the defendant from purchasing or possessing a firearm unless the person obtains relief from the prohibition under federal law. The court shall again notify the defendant in writing of the prohibition if the court finds that the defendant has gained or regained fitness to proceed under subsection (2) of this section.

**(6) If the court intends to dismiss all charges involving orders of commitment against a defendant who is committed to and currently located at a state mental hospital or other facility, the court shall order that the defendant be immediately transported back to the jurisdiction in which the charges were initiated, and the dismissal shall take effect only upon the defendant's arrival in that jurisdiction.**

**SECTION 2.** ORS 161.370 is amended to read:

161.370. (1)(a) When the defendant's fitness to proceed is drawn in question, the issue shall be determined by the court.

(b) If neither the prosecuting attorney nor counsel for the defendant contests the finding of the report filed under ORS 161.365, the court may make the determination on the basis of the report. If the finding is contested, the court shall hold a hearing on the issue. If the report is received in evidence in the hearing, the party who contests the finding has the right to summon and to cross-examine any certified evaluator who submitted the report and to offer evidence upon the issue. Other evidence regarding the defendant's fitness to proceed may be introduced by either party.

(2)(a) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed, the criminal proceeding against the defendant shall be suspended and the court shall proceed in accordance with this subsection.

(b) After making the determination under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the court shall receive a recommendation from a community mental health program director or the director's designee, and from any local entity that would be responsible for treating the defendant if the defendant were to be released in the community, concerning whether appropriate community restoration services are present and available in the community.

(c) If the parties agree as to the appropriate action under this section, the court may, after making all findings required by law, enter any order authorized by this section. If the parties do not agree as to the appropriate action, the court and the parties shall, at a hearing, consider an appropriate action in the case, and the court shall make a determination and enter an order necessary to implement the action. In determining the appropriate action, the court shall consider the primary and secondary release criteria as defined in ORS 135.230, the least restrictive option appropriate for the defendant, the needs of the defendant and the interests of justice. Actions may include but are not limited to:

(A) Commitment for the defendant to gain or regain fitness to proceed under subsection (3) or (4) of this section;

(B) An order to engage in community restoration services, as recommended by the community mental health program director or designee, under subsection (6) of this section;

(C) Commencement of a civil commitment proceeding under ORS 426.070 to 426.170, 426.701 or 427.235 to 427.290;

(D) Commencement of protective proceedings under ORS chapter 125; or

(E) Dismissal of the charges pursuant to ORS 135.755 and in accordance with ORS 161.367 (6).

(d) If the court, while considering or ordering an appropriate action under this subsection, does not order the defendant committed to a state mental hospital or other facility, but finds that appropriate community restoration services are not present and available in the community, for any defendant remaining in custody after such determination, the court shall set a review hearing seven days from the date of the determination under paragraph (a) of this subsection. At the review hearing, the court shall consider all relevant information and determine if commitment to the state

mental hospital or other facility is appropriate under subsection (3) or (4) of this section, or if another action described in paragraph (c) of this subsection is appropriate. At the conclusion of the hearing the court shall enter an order in accordance with the defendant's constitutional rights to due process.

(e) If the court determines that the appropriate action in the case is an order for the defendant to engage in community restoration services, but the defendant has a pending criminal case, warrant or hold in one or more other jurisdictions, the other jurisdictions shall, within two judicial days of becoming aware of the proceeding under this section, communicate with the court and the other jurisdictions, if applicable, to develop a plan to address the interests of all jurisdictions in the defendant in a timely manner.

(3)(a) If the most serious offense in the charging instrument is a felony, the court shall commit the defendant to the custody of the superintendent of a state mental hospital or director of a facility designated by the Oregon Health Authority if the defendant is at least 18 years of age, or to the custody of the director of a secure intensive community inpatient facility designated by the authority if the defendant is under 18 years of age, if the court makes the following findings:

(A) The defendant requires a hospital level of care due to public safety concerns if the defendant is not hospitalized or in custody or the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder; and

(B) Based on the findings resulting from a consultation described in ORS 161.365 (1), if applicable, from any information provided by community-based mental health providers or any other sources, and primary and secondary release criteria as defined in ORS 135.230, the appropriate community restoration services are not present and available in the community.

(b) If the defendant is committed under this subsection, the community mental health program director, or director's designee, shall at regular intervals, during any period of commitment, review available community restoration services and maintain communication with the defendant and the superintendent of the state mental hospital or director of the facility in order to facilitate an efficient transition to treatment in the community when ordered.

(c) If the court does not order the commitment of the defendant under this subsection, the court shall proceed in accordance with subsection (2)(c) of this section to determine and order an appropriate action other than commitment.

(4)(a) If the most serious offense in the charging instrument is a misdemeanor, the court may not commit the defendant to the custody of the superintendent of a state mental hospital or director of a facility designated by the Oregon Health Authority if the defendant is at least 18 years of age, or to the custody of the director of a secure intensive community inpatient facility designated by the authority if the defendant is under 18 years of age, unless the court:

(A)(i) Receives a recommendation from a certified evaluator that the defendant requires a hospital level of care due to the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder; and

(ii) Receives a recommendation from a community mental health program director, or director's designee, that the appropriate community restoration services are not present and available in the community; or

(B) Determines that the defendant requires a hospital level of care after making all of the following written findings:

(i) The defendant needs a hospital level of care due to the acuity of the symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder;

(ii) There are public safety concerns; and

(iii) The appropriate community restoration services are not present and available in the community.

(b) If at the time of determining the appropriate action for the case, the court is considering commitment under paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection and:

(A) Has not received a recommendation from a certified evaluator as to whether the defendant requires a hospital level of care due to the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder, the court shall order a certified evaluator to make such a recommendation.

(B) Has not received a recommendation from the community mental health program director or designee concerning whether appropriate community restoration services are present and available in the community, the court shall order the director or designee to make such a recommendation.

(c) If the court does not order the commitment of the defendant under this subsection, the court shall proceed in accordance with subsection (2)(c) of this section to determine and order an appropriate action other than commitment.

(d) If the defendant is committed under this subsection, the community mental health program director, or director's designee, shall at regular intervals, during any period of commitment, review available community restoration services and maintain communication with the defendant and the superintendent of the state mental hospital or director of the facility in order to facilitate an efficient transition to treatment in the community when ordered.

(5) If the most serious offense in the charging instrument is a violation, the court may not commit the defendant to the custody of the superintendent of a state mental hospital or director of a facility designated by the Oregon Health Authority if the defendant is at least 18 years of age, or to the custody of the director of a secure intensive community inpatient facility designated by the authority if the defendant is under 18 years of age.

(6)(a) If the court does not order the commitment of the defendant under subsection (3) or (4) of this section, if commitment is precluded under subsection (5) of this section or if the court determines that care other than commitment would better serve the defendant and the community, the court shall release the defendant, pursuant to an order that the defendant engage in community restoration services, until the defendant has gained or regained fitness to proceed, or until the court finds there is no substantial probability that the defendant will, within the foreseeable future, gain or regain fitness to proceed. The court may not order the defendant to engage in community restoration services in another county without permission from the other county.

(b) The court may order a community mental health program director coordinating the defendant's treatment in the community to provide the court with status reports on the defendant's progress in gaining or regaining fitness to proceed. The director shall provide a status report if the defendant is not complying with court-ordered restoration services.

(c) A community mental health program director coordinating the defendant's treatment in the community shall notify the court if the defendant gains or regains fitness to proceed. The notice shall be filed with the court and may be filed electronically. The clerk of the court shall cause copies of the notice to be delivered to both the district attorney and the counsel for the defendant.

(d) When a defendant is ordered to engage in community restoration services under this subsection, the court may place conditions that the court deems appropriate on the release, including the requirement that the defendant regularly report to a state mental hospital or a certified evaluator for examination to determine if the defendant has gained or regained fitness to proceed.

(7) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish by rule standards for the recommendation provided to the court described in subsection (2) of this section.

**SECTION 3.** ORS 161.371 is amended to read:

161.371. (1) The superintendent of a state mental hospital or director of a facility to which the defendant is committed under ORS 161.370 shall cause the defendant to be evaluated within 60 days from the defendant's delivery into the superintendent's or director's custody, for the purpose of determining whether there is a substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will have fitness to proceed. In addition, the superintendent or director shall:

(a) Immediately notify the committing court if the defendant, at any time, gains or regains fitness to proceed or if there is no substantial probability that, within the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain fitness to proceed.

(b) Within 90 days of the defendant's delivery into the superintendent's or director's custody, notify the committing court that:

(A) The defendant has present fitness to proceed;

(B) There is no substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain fitness to proceed; or

(C) There is a substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain fitness to proceed. If the probability exists, the superintendent or director shall give the court an estimate of the time in which the defendant, with appropriate treatment, is expected to gain or regain fitness to proceed.

(c) Notify the court if court-ordered involuntary medication is necessary for the defendant to gain or regain fitness to proceed and, if appropriate, submit a report to the court under ORS 161.372.

(2)(a) If the superintendent of the state mental hospital or director of the facility to which the defendant is committed determines that there is a substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain fitness to proceed, unless the court otherwise orders, the defendant shall remain in the superintendent's or director's custody where the defendant shall receive treatment designed for the purpose of enabling the defendant to gain or regain fitness to proceed. In keeping with the notice requirement under subsection (1)(b) of this section, the superintendent or director shall, for the duration of the defendant's period of commitment, submit a progress report to the committing court, concerning the defendant's fitness to proceed, at least once every 180 days as measured from the date of the defendant's delivery into the superintendent's or director's custody.

(b) A progress report described in paragraph (a) of this subsection may consist of an update to:

(A) The original examination report conducted under ORS 161.365; or

(B) An evaluation conducted under subsection (1) of this section, if the defendant did not receive an examination under ORS 161.365.

(3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, if the most serious offense in the charging instrument is a felony, and the superintendent of the state mental hospital or director of the facility to which the defendant is committed determines that a hospital level of care is no longer necessary due to present public safety concerns and the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder, the superintendent or director may file notice of the determination with the court. Upon receipt of the notice, the court shall order that a community mental health program director or the director's designee, within five judicial days:

(A) Consult with the defendant and with any local entity that would be responsible for providing community restoration services, if the defendant were to be released in the community, to determine whether community restoration services are present and available in the community; and

(B) Provide the court and the parties with recommendations from the consultation.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, if the most serious offense in the charging instrument is a felony, and the community mental health program director determines that community restoration services that would mitigate any risk posed by the defendant are present and available in the community, the community mental health program director may file notice of the determination with the court. Upon receipt of the notice, the court shall order that the superintendent of the state mental hospital or director of the facility to which the defendant is committed, within five judicial days:

(A) Evaluate the defendant to determine whether a hospital level of care is no longer necessary due to present public safety concerns, or no longer necessary due to the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder; and

(B) Provide the court and the parties with recommendations from the evaluation.

(c) Within 10 judicial days of receiving the recommendations described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, the court shall hold a hearing to determine an appropriate action in accordance with ORS 161.370 (2)(c) as follows:

(A) If, after consideration of the factors and possible actions described in ORS 161.370 (2)(c) and any recommendations received under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, the court determines that a hospital level of care is necessary due to public safety concerns or the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder, and that based on the consultation or evaluation described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, any information provided by community-based mental health providers or any other sources, primary and secondary release criteria as defined in ORS 135.230, and any other information the court finds to be trustworthy and reliable, the appro-

priate community restoration services are not present and available in the community, the court may continue the commitment of the defendant.

(B) If the court does not make the determination described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the court shall terminate the commitment and shall set a review hearing seven days from the date of the commitment termination for any defendant remaining in custody. At the review hearing, the court shall consider all relevant information, determine an appropriate action in the case as described in ORS 161.370 (2)(c) and enter an order in accordance with the defendant's constitutional rights to due process.

(4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, if the most serious offense in the charging instrument is a misdemeanor, and the superintendent of the state mental hospital or director of the facility to which the defendant is committed determines that the defendant no longer needs a hospital level of care due to the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder or there are not present public safety concerns, the superintendent or director shall file notice of the determination with the court, along with recommendations regarding the necessary community restoration services that would mitigate any risk presented by the defendant. Upon receipt of the notice, the court shall order that a community mental health program director or the director's designee, within five judicial days:

(A) Consult with the defendant and with any local entity that would be responsible for providing community restoration services, if the defendant were to be released in the community, to determine whether appropriate community restoration services are present and available in the community; and

(B) Provide the court and the parties with recommendations from the consultation.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (2) of this section, if the most serious offense in the charging instrument is a misdemeanor, and the community mental health program director determines that the community restoration services that would mitigate any risk posed by the defendant are present and available in the community, the community mental health program director may file notice of the determination with the court. Upon receipt of the notice, the court shall order that the superintendent of the state mental hospital or director of the facility to which the defendant is committed, within five judicial days:

(A) Evaluate the defendant to determine whether a hospital level of care is no longer necessary due to present public safety concerns, or no longer necessary due to the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder; and

(B) Provide the court and the parties with recommendations from the evaluation.

(c) Within 10 judicial days of receiving the recommendations described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, the court shall hold a hearing to determine an appropriate action in accordance with ORS 161.370 (2)(c) as follows:

(A) After consideration of the factors and possible actions described in ORS 161.370 (2)(c), the consultation or evaluation and any recommendations described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, and any other information the court finds to be trustworthy and reliable, the court may continue the commitment of the defendant if the court makes written findings that a hospital level of care is necessary due to public safety concerns and the acuity of symptoms of the defendant's qualifying mental disorder, and that appropriate community restoration services are not present and available in the community.

(B) If the court does not make the findings described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the court shall terminate the commitment and shall set a review hearing seven days from the date of the commitment termination for any defendant remaining in custody. At the review hearing, the court shall consider all relevant information, determine an appropriate action in the case as described in ORS 161.370 (2)(c) and enter an order in accordance with the defendant's constitutional rights to due process.

(5)(a) If a defendant remains committed under this section, the court shall determine within a reasonable period of time whether there is a substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain fitness to proceed. However, regardless of the number of charges

with which the defendant is accused, in no event shall the defendant be committed for longer than whichever of the following, measured from the defendant's initial custody date, is shorter:

(A) Three years; or

(B) A period of time equal to the maximum sentence the court could have imposed if the defendant had been convicted.

(b) For purposes of calculating the maximum period of commitment described in paragraph (a) of this subsection:

(A) The initial custody date is the date on which the defendant is first committed under this section on any charge alleged in the accusatory instrument; and

(B) The defendant shall be given credit against each charge alleged in the accusatory instrument:

(i) For each day the defendant is committed under this section, whether the days are consecutive or are interrupted by a period of time during which the defendant has gained or regained fitness to proceed; and

(ii) Unless the defendant is charged on any charging instrument with aggravated murder or a crime listed in ORS 137.700 (2), for each day the defendant is held in jail before and after the date the defendant is first committed, whether the days are consecutive or are interrupted by a period of time during which the defendant lacks fitness to proceed.

(c) The superintendent of the state mental hospital or director of the facility to which the defendant is committed shall notify the committing court of the defendant's impending discharge 30 days before the date on which the superintendent or director is required to discharge the defendant under this subsection.

(6)(a) All notices required under this section shall be filed with the court and may be filed electronically. The clerk of the court shall cause copies of the notices to be delivered to both the district attorney and the counsel for the defendant.

(b) When the committing court receives a notice from the superintendent or director under subsection (1) of this section concerning the defendant's progress or lack thereof, or under subsection (5) of this section concerning the defendant's impending discharge, the committing court shall determine, after a hearing if a hearing is requested, whether the defendant presently has fitness to proceed.

(7) If at any time the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed, the court shall further determine whether the defendant is entitled to discharge under subsection (5) of this section. If the court determines that the defendant is entitled to discharge under subsection (5) of this section, the court shall dismiss, without prejudice **and in accordance with ORS 161.367 (6)**, all charges against the defendant and:

(a) Order that the defendant be discharged; or

(b) Initiate commitment proceedings under ORS 426.070, 426.701 or 427.235 to 427.290.

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**Passed by House March 28, 2023**

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House

**Passed by Senate June 21, 2023**

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

**Received by Governor:**

.....M.,....., 2023

**Approved:**

.....M.,....., 2023

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Tina Kotek, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M.,....., 2023

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Secretary of State