



Legislative Fiscal Office
 82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2024 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to early medical release from custody; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Legislative Assembly, Legislative Policy and Research Office, Office of the Governor, Task Force/Committee/Workgroup, Department of Corrections, District Attorneys, Judicial Department, Department of Justice, Public Defense Commission, Oregon Health Authority, Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2023-25 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Legislative Policy and Research Office	\$ 113,817	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113,817	1	0.38
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 113,817	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113,817	1	0.38

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Legislative Policy and Research Office	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-

- The Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) generally has existing resources to support task forces, but current policy staff are unable to staff this task force in addition to their existing workload.
- Costs that cannot be absorbed using existing budgeted resources are included in the table above, while additional expenses that may be absorbable are discussed in further detail in the Fiscal Analysis section below.

Measure Description

The measure creates the 23-member Task Force on Compassionate Medical Release which is to review, and recommend modifications to, the early medical release from custody process. The bill directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to provide staff support for the task force.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact is estimated to be \$113,817 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium, with additional expenses anticipated to be absorbed within existing budgetary resources.

Legislative Policy and Research Office

The bill requires LPRO to provide staff support to the task force. While LPRO’s current service level budget supports interim committees and task forces, the complexity of this topic, as well as the relatively short timeline to complete this work, is likely to require LPRO to hire one additional limited-duration, full-time Research Analyst (0.38 FTE) to staff the task force, at a total cost of \$113,817 General Fund.

Assuming twice monthly meetings over eight months, LPRO will also utilize one existing Senior Legislative Analyst assigned full-time to the task force (0.38 FTE) and one existing Committee Assistant assigned part-time to the task force (0.31 FTE), at a total cost of \$182,651 using existing General Fund resources. If the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2023-25 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

LPRO notes that additional costs could result from the requirement that the task force calculate the current costs of providing medical care for adults in custody who are terminally ill or severely incapacitated; and also calculate potential savings from reforming the current medical release program. It is not clear if all of this information is tracked or can be provided by other state agencies.

Legislative Assembly

The bill is expected to have a minimal impact on the Legislative Assembly. Four members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. Meetings are set by the chairperson and it is unknown how often the task force would meet; however, assuming that the task force meets eight times, the estimated per diem and travel reimbursement costs will total \$11,900. This amount includes the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax, assumes the per diem remains at \$166 per day, and estimates an average mileage of 180 miles at the current rate of \$0.67 per mile. This estimate could change based on the number of meetings held. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during the Legislative Session, or Task Force or Legislative Days.

Although the 2023-25 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2023-25 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required.

Other entities

There is no or minimal fiscal impact anticipated for the Office of the Governor, Department of Corrections, District Attorneys, Judicial Department, Department of Justice, Public Defense Commission, Oregon Health Authority, and Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision.

Relevant Dates

The bill declares an emergency and takes effect on passage, and the task force sunsets on January 2, 2025.

The task force is to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary by December 31, 2024.