

HB 4001 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

This measure establishes the Task Force on Specialty Courts and specifies certain issues relating to specialty courts that the task force is directed to study.

Establishes the Task Force on Specialty Courts (The Task Force) and specifies membership appointments to The Task Force . Directs The Task Force to study certain issues concerning specialty courts. Requires The Task Force to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary no later than September 15, 2024. States that the Director of the Legislative Policy and Research Office shall provide staff support to the task force. Provides that members of The Task Force are volunteers and not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Increases the number of members appointed to The Task Force from 12 to 15. Amends the date by which The Task Force must report on its findings from September 15, 2024 to November 15, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Oregon Legislative Assembly's adoption of HB 3194 expanded the scope of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commissions' (CJC) charge to include coordinating specialty court-specific trainings and to develop and support the implementation of evidence-based standards for specialty courts with the goal of reducing recidivism and targeting medium to high-risk offenders, in consultation with the Oregon Judicial Department.

Specialty courts, as defined by the CJC, are problem-solving courts that operate under a specialized model to provide court-directed supervision and mandated treatment to nonviolent individuals with substance use or mental health issues underlying their criminal behavior. Specialty Court judges typically impose a strenuous regimen of treatment and accountability that requires a strong personal commitment from participants to take control of their lives to eliminate substance use and sustain a crime-free lifestyle. All specialty courts have the following in common: They serve a specific, targeted population with agreed-upon eligibility criteria; They rely on consistent judicial interaction throughout the duration of the program; They require collaboration among a multidisciplinary team made up of judicial, treatment, supervision, legal staff, and other parties to adhere to best practices.