

HB 4001 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/13/24

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-1-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Andersen, Bynum, Chaichi, Conrad, Kropf, Lewis, Reynolds, Tran, Wallan

Nays: 1 - Yunker

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

Detailed Summary:

Establishes the Task Force on Specialty Courts (the Task Force) and specifies membership appointments of 19 members. 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 November 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. Repeals provision on December 31, 2024. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Types of specialty courts operating around Oregon
- Common components and procedural approach of a typical specialty court
- Reliance on evidence-based practices by specialty court teams and agency partners
- Insufficient funding available to meet the demands to maintain current service levels and fund applications for new courts
- Stabilization of funding sources
- Extensive and long-standing research on the effectiveness of specialty court approach
- Lack of compensation for task force members

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, the Oregon Legislative Assembly's adoption of HB 3194 expanded the scope of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's (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

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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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; and they require collaboration among a multidisciplinary team made up of judicial, treatment, supervision, legal staff, and other parties to adhere to best practices.