

HB 2972 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$3,000,000 General Fund to the Oregon Employment Department for staffing workforce reentry programs for adults in custody delivered through the WorkSource Oregon system. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 2972 provides \$3,000,000 General Fund to Oregon Employment Department (OED) for Oregon Workforce Partnership and the Oregon Department of Correction's (DOC) WorkSource Reentry Program.

For nearly two years, DOC has been collaborating with East Cascades Works, the Oregon Workforce Partnership, and the OED to implement WorkSource Centers inside every DOC prison in the state. Currently, funded through a U.S. Department of Labor Pathway Home grant, the WorkSource Centers are operated by a DOC Transition Coordinator and a dedicated, local Oregon Employment Department or local Workforce Development Board-contracted staff person.

The WorkSource Centers in DOC facilities provide adults in custody (AICs) preparing for release with access to the same state employment services used by thousands of Oregonians in the community. The employment services include work preparation service, training and education services, job search and placement assistance, financial literacy, and computer skills.

The federal grant funded is expected to end soon and the measure provides ongoing funding and permits placement of OED staff in each DOC facility to provide both institutional and community-based employment services and statewide oversight.