

HB 2632 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to study specialty courts and to provide a report to the legislature by December 31, 2026.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment replaces the measure, requires the Chief Justice to appoint specified members to a Treatment Court Advisory Committee to assist the Chief Justice and the legislature on issues related to treatment courts and changes the terms "drug court program" and "specialty courts" to "treatment court program" and "treatment courts" in statute.

Detailed Summary

Requires the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to appoint a statewide advisory committee on treatment courts to "assist the Chief Justice and the Legislative Assembly on issues relating to the administration, funding, accountability and eligibility criteria for treatment courts."

Requires the following membership on the committee:

- Three judges
- Two district attorneys recommended by the Oregon District Attorneys Association or a successor organization
- Two public defender representatives
- One behavioral health treatment providers representative
- One alcohol and drug treatment providers representative
- One veterans representative
- One representative of the Oregon Youth Authority or other juvenile organization
- One Department of Human Services representative
- One Oregon Criminal Justice Commission representative
- One Oregon Health Authority representative
- One community corrections director
- One law enforcement representative
- One county government representative representing a county with a population over 300,000
- One county government representative representing a county with a population under 50,000
- One representative of the Governor
- One Oregon tribes representative

Requires the committee to meet quarterly and at the call of the Chief Justice. Requires the committee to be staffed by the Oregon Judicial Department Office of the State Court Administrator.

Requires the committee to submit a report annual on the status of treatment courts in the state.

Changes the term "drug court program" to "treatment court program," defines "treatment court" to include, but not be limited to, "a veterans' court, mental health court, family court or any other similar court or docketing system that meets" certain requirements. Replaces the term "specialty court" with "treatment court."

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-2 The amendment replaces the measure, requires the Chief Justice to appoint members, including representatives of specific agencies and organizations, to a Treatment Court Advisory Committee to provide recommendations relating to treatment courts to the Chief Justice and it changes the terms "drug court program" and "specialty courts" to "treatment court program" and "treatment courts" in statute.

Detailed Summary

Requires the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to appoint a statewide advisory committee on treatment courts to "make recommendations to the Chief Justice on issues relating to the administration, funding, accountability and eligibility criteria for treatment courts."

Requires the Chief Justice to consider the diversity of the state and include representatives of the following when appointing members :

- Circuit court judges
- Treatment court coordinators
- Prosecutors
- Public defense providers
- Behavioral health treatment providers
- Alcohol and drug treatment providers
- Certified recovery mentors or peer support specialists
- Community corrections agencies
- Law enforcement
- County governments
- The Department of Veterans' Affairs
- The Oregon Youth Authority

Requires the Chief Justice to determine the terms and representative capacity of members, makes the committee meet at the call of the Chief Justice, and requires the committee be staffed by the Oregon Judicial Department. Clarifies that members serve as volunteers. Directs agencies of state government to assist the advisory committee.

Requires the Chief Justice to designate a case management system to be used for maintaining treatment court program records and for the records of each treatment court program to be maintained in the designated system.

Changes the term "drug court program" to "treatment court program," defines "treatment court" to include, but not be limited to, "a veterans' court, mental health court, family court or any other similar court or docketing system that meets" certain requirements. Replaces the term "specialty court" with "treatment court."

BACKGROUND:

[House Bill 4001](#) (2024) created the [Task Force on Specialty Courts](#) to study four subject areas concerning specialty courts (treatment courts):

1. Identification of the most appropriate funding mechanism to ensure long-term stability of specialty courts within the state.
2. Determining the administrative and funding balance between the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and the Judicial Department.
3. Determining whether specialty courts currently use the right eligibility metrics, including whether current metrics are accurately capturing those individuals who would benefit from a drug court program.
4. Identification of the appropriate accountability mechanism to ensure that specialty courts are operating according to the standards of the commission.

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The Task Force adopted a [Final Report](#) on its findings and recommendations on November 8, 2024, and submitted the report to the House and Senate Interim Committees on Judiciary on November 15, 2024. The Task Force found (Finding 2.2) that "[u]se of best practices is associated with 50–100 percent improved outcomes in specialty courts, and monitoring program adherence to best practices improves specialty court outcomes by around 50 percent, increasing net cost-benefits by around 100 percent." The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) maintains the Specialty Court Case Management Systems (SCMS), and treatment courts that receive Specialty Court Grant funding from the Criminal Justice Commission are required to utilize SCMS. They receive guidance for adherence to Oregon Specialty Court Standards based in part on that data, along with other inputs. However, several treatment courts do not seek grant funding and do not use SCMS, leaving statewide data and court-level data regarding standard adherence incomplete. The Task force voted to recommend (Recommendation 3) that uniform data entry be required for all treatment courts in the state system, that the data system be maintained by OJD, and that OJD and the Criminal Justice Commission have access to deidentified data for assessment and analysis.