

## CHAPTER 130

## AN ACT

HB 2420

Relating to fitness to proceed; amending ORS 161.365 and 161.370.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1.** ORS 161.365 is amended to read:

161.365. (1) When the court has reason to doubt the defendant's fitness to proceed by reason of incapacity as described in ORS 161.360, the court may call any witness to its assistance in reaching its decision **and shall order that a community mental health program director or the director's designee consult with the defendant to determine whether services and supervision necessary to safely restore the defendant's fitness to proceed are available in the community. After the consultation, the program director or the director's designee shall provide to the court a copy of the findings resulting from the consultation.** If the court determines the assistance of a psychiatrist or psychologist would be helpful, the court may:

(a) Order that a psychiatric or psychological examination of the defendant be conducted by a certified evaluator as defined in ORS 161.309 and a report of the examination be prepared; or

(b) Order the defendant to be committed for the purpose of an examination for a period not exceeding 30 days to a state mental hospital or other facility designated by the Oregon Health Authority if the defendant is at least 18 years of age, or to a secure intensive community inpatient facility designated by the authority if the defendant is under 18 years of age.

(2) The report of an examination described in this section must include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

(a) A description of the nature of the examination;

(b) A statement of the mental condition of the defendant;

(c) If the defendant suffers from a mental disease or defect, an opinion as to whether the defendant is incapacitated within the description set out in ORS 161.360; and

(d) If the defendant is incapacitated within the description set out in ORS 161.360, a recommendation of treatment and services necessary to restore capacity.

(3) Except when the defendant and the court both request to the contrary, the report may not contain any findings or conclusions as to whether the defendant as a result of mental disease or defect was subject to the provisions of ORS 161.295 or 161.300 at the time of the criminal act charged.

(4) If the examination by the psychiatrist or psychologist cannot be conducted by reason of the unwillingness of the defendant to participate in the examination, the report shall so state and shall in-

clude, if possible, an opinion as to whether the unwillingness of the defendant was the result of mental disease or defect affecting capacity to proceed.

(5) The report shall be filed in triplicate with the clerk of the court, who shall cause copies to be delivered to the district attorney and to counsel for defendant.

(6)(a) When upon motion of the court or a financially eligible defendant, the court has ordered a psychiatric or psychological examination of the defendant, a county or justice court shall order the county to pay, and a circuit court shall order the public defense services executive director to pay from funds available for the purpose:

(A) A reasonable fee if the examination of the defendant is conducted by a psychiatrist or psychologist in private practice; and

(B) All costs including transportation of the defendant if the examination is conducted by a psychiatrist or psychologist in the employ of the Oregon Health Authority or a community mental health program established under ORS 430.610 to 430.670.

(b) When an examination is ordered at the request or with the acquiescence of a defendant who is determined not to be financially eligible, the examination shall be performed at the defendant's expense. When an examination is ordered at the request of the prosecution, the county shall pay for the expense of the examination.

**(7) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish by rule standards for the consultation described in subsection (1) of this section.**

**SECTION 2.** ORS 161.370 is amended to read:

161.370. (1) When the defendant's fitness to proceed is drawn in question, the issue shall be determined by the court. If neither the prosecuting attorney nor counsel for the defendant contests the finding of the report filed under ORS 161.365, the court may make the determination on the basis of the report. If the finding is contested, the court shall hold a hearing on the issue. If the report is received in evidence in the hearing, the party who contests the finding has the right to summon and to cross-examine any psychiatrist or psychologist who submitted the report and to offer evidence upon the issue. Other evidence regarding the defendant's fitness to proceed may be introduced by either party.

(2) If the court determines that the defendant lacks fitness to proceed, the criminal proceeding against the defendant shall be suspended and:

(a) If the court finds that the defendant is dangerous to self or others as a result of mental disease or defect, or that, **based on the findings resulting from the consultation described in ORS 161.365 (1)**, the services and supervision necessary to restore the defendant's fitness to proceed are not available in the community, the court shall commit the defendant to the custody of the superintendent of a state mental hospital or director of a facility, designated by the Oregon Health Authority, if the defendant is at least 18 years of age, or to the custody of the director of a secure intensive community in-

patient facility designated by the authority if the defendant is under 18 years of age; or

(b) If the court does not make a finding described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, or if the court determines that care other than commitment for incapacity to stand trial would better serve the defendant and the community, the court shall release the defendant on supervision for as long as the unfitness endures.

(3) When a defendant is released on supervision under *[this section]* **subsection (2)(b) of this section**, the court may place conditions that the court deems appropriate on the release, including the requirement that the defendant regularly report to the authority or a community mental health program for examination to determine if the defendant has **gained or** regained capacity to stand trial.

(4) When the court, on its own motion or upon the application of the superintendent of the hospital or director of the facility in which the defendant is committed, a person examining the defendant as a condition of release on supervision, or either party, determines, after a hearing, if a hearing is requested, that the defendant has **gained or** regained fitness to proceed, the criminal proceeding shall be resumed. If, however, the court is of the view that so much time has elapsed since the commitment or release of the defendant on supervision that it would be unjust to resume the criminal proceeding, the court on motion of either party may dismiss the charge and may order the defendant to be discharged or cause a proceeding to be commenced forthwith under ORS 426.070 to 426.170 or 427.235 to 427.290.

(5) The superintendent of a state hospital or director of a facility to which the defendant is committed shall cause the defendant to be evaluated within 60 days from the defendant's delivery into the superintendent's or director's custody, for the purpose of determining whether there is a substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will have the capacity to stand trial. In addition, the superintendent or director shall:

(a) Immediately notify the committing court if the defendant, at any time, gains or regains the capacity to stand trial or will never have the capacity to stand trial.

(b) Within 90 days of the defendant's delivery into the superintendent's or director's custody, notify the committing court that:

(A) The defendant has the present capacity to stand trial;

(B) There is no substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain the capacity to stand trial; or

(C) There is a substantial probability that, in the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain the capacity to stand trial. If the probability exists, the superintendent or director shall give the court an estimate of the time in which the defendant, with appropriate treatment, is expected to gain or regain capacity.

(6)(a) If the superintendent or director determines that there is a substantial probability that, in

the foreseeable future, the defendant will gain or regain the capacity to stand trial, unless the court otherwise orders, the defendant shall remain in the superintendent's or director's custody where the defendant shall receive treatment designed for the purpose of enabling the defendant to gain or regain capacity. In keeping with the notice requirement under subsection (5)(b) of this section, the superintendent or director shall, for the duration of the defendant's period of commitment, submit a progress report to the committing court, concerning the defendant's capacity or incapacity, at least once every 180 days as measured from the date of the defendant's delivery into the superintendent's or director's custody.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, if the superintendent or director determines that a defendant committed under this section is no longer dangerous to self or others as a result of mental disease or defect, or that the services and supervision necessary to restore the defendant's fitness to proceed are available in the community, the superintendent or director shall file notice of that determination with the court. Upon receipt of the notice, the court shall order the person released on supervision as described in subsection (3) of this section.

(7)(a) A defendant who remains committed under subsection (6) of this section shall be discharged within a period of time that is reasonable for making a determination concerning whether or not, and when, the defendant may gain or regain capacity. However, regardless of the number of charges with which the defendant is accused, in no event shall the defendant be committed for longer than whichever of the following, measured from the defendant's initial custody date, is shorter:

(A) Three years; or

(B) A period of time equal to the maximum sentence the court could have imposed if the defendant had been convicted.

(b) For purposes of calculating the maximum period of commitment described in paragraph (a) of this subsection:

(A) The initial custody date is the date on which the defendant is first committed under this section on any charge alleged in the accusatory instrument; and

(B) The defendant shall be given credit against each charge alleged in the accusatory instrument for each day the defendant is committed under this section, whether the days are consecutive or are interrupted by a period of time during which the defendant has **gained or** regained fitness to proceed.

(8) The superintendent or director shall notify the committing court of the defendant's impending discharge 30 days before the date on which the superintendent or director is required to discharge the defendant under subsection (7) of this section.

(9) When the committing court receives a notice from the superintendent or director under subsection (5) or (8) of this section concerning the defendant's progress or lack thereof, the committing court shall

determine, after a hearing, if a hearing is requested, whether the defendant presently has the capacity to stand trial.

(10) If at any time the court determines that the defendant lacks the capacity to stand trial, the court shall further determine whether there is a substantial probability that the defendant, in the foreseeable future, will gain or regain the capacity to stand trial and whether the defendant is entitled to discharge under subsection (7) of this section. If the court determines that there is no substantial probability that the defendant, in the foreseeable future, will gain or regain the capacity to stand trial or that the defendant is entitled to discharge under subsection (7) of this section, the court shall dismiss, without prejudice, all charges against the defendant and:

(a) Order that the defendant be discharged; or

(b) Initiate commitment proceedings under ORS 426.070 or 427.235 to 427.290.

(11) All notices required under this section shall be filed with the clerk of the court and delivered to both the district attorney and the counsel for the defendant.

(12) If the defendant **gains or** regains fitness to proceed, the term of any sentence received by the defendant for conviction of the crime charged shall be reduced by the amount of time the defendant was committed under this section to the custody of a state mental hospital, or to the custody of a secure intensive community inpatient facility, designated by the Oregon Health Authority.

(13) Notwithstanding the suspension of the criminal proceeding under subsection (2) of this section, the fact that the defendant is unfit to proceed does not preclude any objection through counsel and without the personal participation of the defendant on the grounds that the indictment is insufficient, that the statute of limitations has run, that double jeopardy principles apply or upon any other ground at the discretion of the court which the court deems susceptible of fair determination prior to trial.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 2015

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