



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

April 4, 2019

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Youth Development Council will be able to inspect juvenile detention facilities, under Senate Bill 15

SB 15: Inspecting facilities, collecting data, helps YDC better fulfill its mission

SALEM – It’s difficult to exercise authority over juvenile detention activities when there’s no authorization to inspect the facilities and gather appropriate data. A bill passed by the Oregon State Senate today will fix that issue for the Oregon Youth Development Council.

[Senate Bill 15](#) – which passed with a 27-1 vote on the Senate floor – updates the Youth Development Council’s authority by allowing it to collect data and inspect any facility where Oregon’s juveniles are detained. This will allow the council to better ensure compliance with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974.

“We need to give the Youth Development Council the most tools and the best tools we can to help them do their job,” said Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene), who carried the bill on the Senate floor. “They can’t do their job properly if they can’t inspect the facilities where we’re putting our kids. This will allow them to better set rules and deal with issues in these facilities when they come up.”

First enacted in 1974, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act was reauthorized by Congress late last year. The act’s four core requirements are as follows:

- Deinstitutionalizing status offenders;
- Removing children from adult correctional facilities;

- Separating children placed in adult correctional facilities from adults, both in sight and sound; and
- Addressing the disproportionate contact of youth of color in the juvenile justice system.

The act requires each state to create a State Advisory Group responsible for monitoring and supporting progress toward addressing those core requirements. The Oregon Legislature established the Youth Development Council to fill that role. The council assists the Oregon Education Investment Board in assessing and coordinating the state's investments to help school-aged children and youth succeed, as well as keep them out of the juvenile justice system.

"Our kids should be kept safe and putting them in adult prisons is harmful to them," Manning said. "We also have kids of color who are interacting with the juvenile justice system at a much higher rate than other kids. We need to be putting a stop to that, and so we should help the Youth Development Council in doing its job."

The bill also provides the council with rule-making authority on facility inspection and data collection. Senate Bill 15 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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