



in an increase of these types of lawsuits or if the protected class is small enough that the number of lawsuits filed we be somewhat less than 18. For each case closed by the Risk Management Division, approximately \$17,000 is spent on attorney's fees and \$22,000 is spent on claims costs. These costs are paid out of the state's self insurance pool which is funded by assessments charged to agencies based on the state's overall risk experience. If increased claims are filed against the state it is logical to conclude that the assessment paid to the state's self insurance pool will likewise increase in the next biennium. There is a myriad of factors, such as increases or decreases in other lawsuits against the state, that effect how much this assessment may increase, if it increases at all, and it would be difficult to attribute a specific amount of the increase to claims for this particular class.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) anticipate some incremental increase in workload associated with this bill, but the quantity of sexual orientation discrimination lawsuits is not known. DOJ would be responsible for defending the state when the state is the defendant in a lawsuit and in general the costs of defending the state would be included in the Risk Management Division's costs. OJD costs would increase as these types of lawsuits are tried in circuit court, the Court of Appeals, and potentially, the State Supreme Court.

The overall fiscal effect of this bill is indeterminate due to the inability to reliably predict the quantity of sexual orientation discrimination lawsuits that may be filed.