

**REVENUE:** Revenue statement issued

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass the A-engrossed bill and rescind subsequent referral to Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	9-0-0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Berger, Bruun, Butler, Gelser, Olson, Read, Rosenbaum, Witt, Barnhart
<b>Nays:</b>	
<b>Exc.:</b>	
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Paul Warner, Economist
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/26, 5/8

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**WHAT THE BILL DOES:** Imposes \$10 filing fee for certain petitions and responses to petitions. Petitions include marital annulment, dissolution and separation. Collected fees are deposited in the Domestic Violence Clinical Program Account. The account is used to fund education for victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault. Dollars from the account are allocated through the Department of Higher Education through grants to accredited institutions of higher education that provide civil legal services to victims of domestic violence. Currently the eligible higher education institutions are the law schools at the University of Oregon, Willamette University and Lewis & Clark College.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Similar fees in 6 other states.
- Indigents cannot be assessed fee under Oregon law.
- Potential impact of HB 2007 (civil unions) on demand for service in the future.
- Learning experience of previous participants in the program.

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:** None

**BACKGROUND:** The University of Oregon has operated a domestic violence program since 1999. The clinic is currently funded primarily through federal grants. These grants are considered tenuous for the future. The fee proposed in HB 2961 is designed to help maintain the current clinic at the University of Oregon and help start similar clinics at the other two eligible law schools.

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*