

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Beyer, Kruse, Prozanski, Walker, Burdick
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Darian Stanford, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 2/15, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires use of certified stenographic reporter in aggravated murder proceedings. Requires state to pay costs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of stenographic reporting
- Need for accuracy in aggravated murder proceedings

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Declares emergency and that bill takes effect October 1, 2007.

BACKGROUND: ORS 8.340 discusses court reporters. In relevant part, the court reporter is an officer of the court that keeps the official record or transcript of the relevant proceedings. Presently, there are two acceptable methods for this recording: (1) accurate notes via shorthand or by a mechanical or typing device (stenograph); or (2) audio recording. The choice of which method to utilize appears to be left to the individual court.

SB 445 requires the use of a certified stenographic reporter for aggravated murder proceedings and designates such record as the official transcript. The State Court Administrator pays the costs of this reporting.