74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session **MEASURE:** SB 733 A **CARRIER:**

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee on Judiciary

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and be referred to the Committee on Ways and

Means by prior reference

3 - 0 - 2Vote:

> Kruse, Walker, Burdick Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.: Beyer, Prozanski

Prepared By: Bill Taylor, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Court Facilities Planning Commission consisting of 14 members appointed as follows: (1) Two by the Governor; (2) One Senate Democrat and one Senate Republican by the Senate President; (3) One House Republican and one House Democrat by the Speaker of the House; (4) Two by the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court; (5) Four by the Association of Oregon Counties; and (5) Two by the Oregon State Bar. Requires the commission to study court facilities and allows it to make recommendations on the minimum standards for suitable and sufficient state court facilities to be built or renovated with state financial assistance. Develops criteria for prioritizing courthouse improvement projects.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Poor condition of the courthouses in Oregon
- Inability of counties to fund repairs, remodeling and rebuilding

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows the Court Facilities Planning Commission may make recommendations, but is not required to do so.

BACKGROUND: Many of Oregon's courthouses are in serious condition of disrepair. ORS 1.185 requires counties to provide suitable and sufficient courtrooms, offices, and jury rooms for the court, the judges, other officers and employees of the court and juries in attendance upon the court, and provide maintenance and utilities for those courtrooms, offices and jury rooms. In many instances, the cost of repair, refurbishing or rebuilding runs into many millions of dollars. Many of Oregon's counties do not have the financial ability to meet these obligations.

SB 733 is the product of a work group involving members of the judiciary and county government that was formed for the purpose of finding the financial resources to address the conditions of Oregon's courthouses.