

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 411

Ordered by the Senate April 2
Including Senate Amendments dated April 2

Sponsored by Senators BROWN, KRUSE, Representatives KRIEGER, SCHAUFLEER

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Appropriates money from General Fund to Public Defense Services Commission for improving legal representation of parents and children in dependency cases.
Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to appointment of counsel in dependency cases; appropriating money; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 Whereas improving parents' and children's legal representation in dependency cases increases
5 the percentage of children returned to parents and to a safe environment; and

6 Whereas improving parents' and children's legal representation in dependency cases reduces the
7 lengths of children's stays in foster care; and

8 Whereas improving parents' and children's legal representation in dependency cases increases
9 stable placements for children, including placements with their relatives; and

10 Whereas improving parents' and children's legal representation in dependency cases reduces
11 delays in the judicial system through a reduction in the number of continuances, a focus on relevant
12 issues and early adjudications and placements; now, therefore,

13 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

14 **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
15 **ated to the Public Defense Services Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, out**
16 **of the General Fund, the amount of \$23 million for the purpose of improving legal represen-**
17 **tation for parents and children in dependency cases, including, but not limited to, improving**
18 **training, support and other resources to support court-appointed counsel.**

19 **SECTION 2. This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
20 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect**
21 **July 1, 2007.**

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NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.