

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	9 - 1 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker
<b>Nays:</b>	Shields
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Shannon Sivell, Counsel
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates new circuit court judge positions. Appropriates money from General Fund to Oregon Judicial Department to fund new positions. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provisions of the measure

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Joint Committee on Oregon Trial Court Judicial Resources convened in summer 2008 to evaluate the need for new judicial positions throughout the state. Prior to the meeting, the committee notified the presiding judges of each judicial district and their respective trial court administrators. Judicial districts interested in obtaining recommendations for new judicial positions from the 2009 Legislature were requested to advise the committee. A number of districts responded. The committee requested that the districts respond to a series of Suggested Discussion Items (listed below) and representatives from the districts were invited to appear at a series of hearings beginning on June 13, 2008. Discussion items included trial statistics, case flow, specialty programs, alternative judicial resources, district attorney's office, specific local factors and facilities.

The committee ultimately considered requests for 15 judicial positions. According to the committee's 2008-2009 report, the principle factor considered by the committee was a weighted caseload study of the Oregon trial courts conducted by the National Center for State Courts, dated July 22, 2000. The study was updated to reflect 2007 case filings in trial courts. The committee then recommended that 13 full-time positions be added. Under this measure the following counties would receive funding for more positions: Marion, Multnomah, Clackamas, Douglas, Washington and Linn. The committee then prioritized which counties were most in need of the new positions and rated the top five counties as follows: 1) Linn, 2) Washington, 3) Douglas, 4) Marion and, 5) Clackamas. Judicial positions have not been added since 2005.