

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass  
Vote: 10 - 0 - 0  
Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: 0  
Prepared By: Shannon Sivell, Counsel  
Meeting Dates: 5/12

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows judges to sit in panels of two to hear and decide cases. Allows pro tem judges. Allows Chief Judge to delegate authority to rule on motions and issue orders in procedural matters to appellate commissioner. Limits de novo review.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Effect of budget cuts on court operations
- Provisions of the measure

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

**BACKGROUND:** SB 262A was introduced on behalf of the Judicial Department in an effort to streamline court functions and reduce costs. Oregon is one of the few states that provides universal de novo – that is, trying the case anew on the record – review in equity cases. SB 262A requires de novo review in only a few types of cases in order to conserve court resources. In addition, under this measure, Oregon will employ the New Jersey-model of allowing cases to be heard by a panel of two judges. In the event of a tie, a third judge will be brought in and the case will be re-heard. Two temporary, or pro tem, judges will be allowed to sit on panels of three judges.