

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Cowan, Dembrow, Freeman, Huffman, Maurer, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Keely West, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows mentally ill individuals committed to the care of the Department of Human Services to be represented by members of legal services or protective services programs in case hearings contesting treatment as potentially unusual or hazardous.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost savings
- Efficiencies of change
- Limited effect of legislation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Patients at the Oregon State Hospital have a right to an administrative hearing prior to being medicated against their will. Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is a non-profit organization that provides legal representation to patients who want to contest the hospital's decision to medicate them. Currently, the law allows the Oregon Bar Association's legal aid program to assist in contested cases of child support or public assistance. SB 288 extends this assistance to individuals in cases of contested treatment. It would allow DRO the flexibility to use specially trained staff, which are not attorneys but are supervised by attorneys.