

**2009 Regular Legislative Session**  
**FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**  
**Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office**

**MEASURE NUMBER:** HB 2316                      **STATUS:** Original  
**SUBJECT:** Creates new circuit court judge positions and appropriates money.  
**GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED:** Oregon Judicial Department and Counties  
**PREPARED BY:** Tim Walker  
**REVIEWED BY:** John Borden  
**DATE:** January 22, 2009

<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>	<u><b>2009-2011</b></u>	<u><b>2011-2013</b></u>
General Fund – Trial Courts	\$ 4,171,600	\$ 9,156,000
 <b>POSITIONS / FTE:</b>		
Judicial Positions	13/3.25	13/13.00
Judicial Services Specialist 3	39/9.75	39/39.00

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** On Passage.

**GOVERNOR’S BUDGET:** This bill is not anticipated by the Governor’s recommended budget.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE:** This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**ANALYSIS:** This bill adds circuit court judges in the following counties: Marion, Multnomah, Clackamas, Douglas, Washington and Linn. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the President of the Oregon State Bar appointed a Joint Committee on Oregon Trial Court Judicial Resources to assess the resources required to meet current workload demands. The Joint Committee used a weighted caseload study conducted by the National Center for State Courts in July of 2000 to quantify the number of additional judgeships necessary to meet caseload demands. A breakdown of the counties affected follows, ranked by the number of new judgeships requested.

	Current Judgeships	Additional Judgeships	Pct. Increase	Additional Support Staff
Total	173	13	7.5%	39
Multnomah	38	4	10.5%	12
Marion	14	3	21.4%	9
Washington	14	3	21.4%	9
Clackamas	11	1	9.1%	3
Douglas	5	1	20.0%	3
Linn	5	1	20.0%	3

The number of additional judgeships recommended by the Joint Committee is a balance between the total number needed in any particular county and the number of judgeships the county can physically accommodate. The total one-time costs of \$1.9 million in 2009-11 are associated with providing the

necessary equipment to outfit a fully functional courtroom. The costs for upgrading the physical infrastructure of the various courts are the responsibility of the counties and that cost is not known at this time. The total cost of this bill also includes the additional support staff necessary for the additional judgeships. Each judgeship requires three administrative support positions.

This bill also appropriates general fund dollars, and establishes position authority.