

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

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 78

STATUS: A Engrossed

SUBJECT: Establishes County Services Planning Council

GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Legislative Assembly, Office of the Governor, Counties, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Judicial Department, Legislative Fiscal Office

PREPARED BY: John Terpening

REVIEWED BY: Daron Hill, Steve Bender, John Borden

DATE: April 14, 2009

EXPENDITURES:

See Analysis

EFFECTIVE DATE: On Passage

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 measure establishes a twelve-member County Services Planning Council to encourage fiscal planning for counties managing the phase-out of federal forest safety net payments and recommend appropriate levels of state fiscal support to counties to the Governor and Legislative Assembly. The measure directs all state agencies to provide information and advice at the request of council members. The measure outlines a fiscal plan that counties may submit if invited by the council. The County Services Planning Council has a sunset date of January 2, 2014. The measure does not allow for compensation of members of the council for expenditures related to the council.

The bill stipulates that the offices of the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Judicial Department, and Legislative Fiscal Officer are to provide support to the council using permanent staff. The Office of the Governor, Legislative Fiscal Office, and Secretary of State all report that passage of this bill will have a minimal fiscal impact and that costs can be absorbed by the agencies with existing resources. Judicial Department and the State Treasury note that the fiscal impact is indeterminate as to what extent permanent staff will be needed, and that if costs cannot be accommodated within the agency's 2009-11 legislatively adopted budget, the agency(ies) may need to return to the Emergency Board if budgeted resources prove insufficient to cover the actual costs of this measure.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that each agency will have to re-prioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff and reallocate resources for staffing the council. The decision to absorb costs represents a decision to move funds from an existing statutory requirement or priority to a different priority based solely at the discretion of agency staff.

The fiscal impact to counties is expected to be minimal.