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

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 284 **STATUS:** A Engrossed
SUBJECT: Increases the statute of ultimate repose in certain circumstances.
GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Oregon Judicial Department
PREPARED BY: Tim Walker
REVIEWED BY: John Borden
DATE: April 28, 2009

	2009-2011	2011-2013
EXPENDITURES:		
See Analysis.		

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2010

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 would changes the statute of ultimate repose in certain product liability cases. The bill exempts current and future asbestos cases and current and future metal halide and mercury vapor light bulb cases.

The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate. Product liability cases tend to be more complex and require more court resources than average civil cases. This bill expands the statute of ultimate repose to the later of 10 years after the date the product was first purchased or after the expiration of an equivalent statue in the state in which the product was manufactured or imported. It is not known how many additional product liability cases may be filed due to the provisions of this bill, but there may be a potential fiscal impact to the Oregon Judicial Department since these types of cases tend to be time consuming and contentious. Therefore, the Department may require a budget adjustment, by the current Legislature, the Emergency Board, or a future Legislature, if the Department's budgeted resources prove insufficient to cover the actual cost of this measure.