

Senate Bill 450

Sponsored by Senator KRUSE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Public Defense Services Commission for improving legal representation of parents and children in dependency cases.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2009.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to appointment of counsel in dependency cases; appropriating money; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 Whereas improving parents' and children's legal representation in dependency cases increases
5 the percentage of children returned to parents and to a safe environment; and

6 Whereas improving parents' and children's legal representation in dependency cases reduces the
7 lengths of children's stays in foster care; and

8 Whereas improving parents' and children's legal representation in dependency cases increases
9 stable placements for children, including placements with their relatives; and

10 Whereas improving parents' and children's legal representation in dependency cases reduces
11 delays in the judicial system through a reduction in the number of continuances, a focus on relevant
12 issues and early adjudications and placements; now, therefore,

13 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

14 **SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
15 **ated to the Public Defense Services Commission, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009, out**
16 **of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ for the purpose of improving legal represen-**
17 **tation for parents and children in dependency cases.**

18 **SECTION 2. This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
19 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect**
20 **July 1, 2009.**

21

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.