

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2501

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Establishes a task force to develop a pilot project to determine best practices for coordinating testimony of law enforcement and correctional officers, the and feasibility of providing Internet access to law enforcement and correctional officers who are waiting to testify.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Corrections, Judicial Department, Oregon State Police (OSP), Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), counties

Expenditure Impact:

See Analysis

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:

HB 2501 establishes a task force to develop a pilot project in one or more counties to determine best practices for coordinating testimony of law enforcement and correctional officers, and the feasibility of providing Internet access to law enforcement and correctional officers who are waiting to testify. The task force is required to submit a report that may include recommendations for legislation to an interim committee of the legislature related to judicial procedures no later than 2012. The bill contains an emergency clause and is effective on passage. The task force sunsets on February 4, 2013.

The bill directs the Department of Corrections to provide staff support to the task force. DOC anticipates reprioritizing the duties and responsibilities of existing staff to provide administrative and accounting support the task force.

The bill states that members of the task force may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses. The task force consists of at least eleven members and may have an unspecified number of members as the task force considers necessary. At this time, per diem and travel reimbursement costs are indeterminate depending on the number of task force members, the frequency and location of task force meetings. The bill stipulates that claims for reimbursement expenses are to be paid out of funds appropriated to the Department of Corrections for the purposes of the task force. However, the bill does not specify the amount of funds to be appropriated. The task force is effective on passage and could impact the DOC budget in the 2009-11 biennium.

The Department of Corrections, the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), the Judicial Department, district attorneys, the Oregon State Police (OSP), sheriffs are identified as participants of the task force. This fiscal assumes that membership on the task force will have minimal impact on these agencies and that any resulting work can be absorbed with existing resources. Each agency will have to reprioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff to allow participation on the task force.

Depending on the nature of the pilot project there may be a fiscal impact to the Judicial Department, counties, DOC, OYA and OSP. The expenditure impact is indeterminate depending on the design and implementation of the pilot project, including the location of the selected court(s) for the pilot, and any information technology equipment, if any, that may be required to provide Internet access to public safety officers, corrections officers and youth correction officers.