

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 409

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

Prepared by: Tim Walker
Reviewed by: John Borden
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Measure Description:

Requires judge to appoint stenographic reporter for proceedings in aggravated murder trials.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Judicial Department

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 require the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) to provide a stenographic reporter for aggravated murder hearings and/or trials. Select Circuit courts currently employ stenographic reporters, who could be used to fulfill the requirements of this measure. OJD also digitally records aggravated murder trials. Interested parties can have the recordings transcribed at their own expense.

According to aggravated murder statistics from the Public Defense Services Commission, there were six such cases in calendar year 2008, three in 2009, and 11 in 2010.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. It is dependent upon the number of aggravated murder hearings and trials held, the length of the hearings and trials, the availability of staff court reporters employed by OJD or private contract court reporter rates and expense for such services. OJD would also incur a minimal fiscal impact for one-time and ongoing administrative expenses related to this measure.