

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Parrish, Thompson, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/21, 4/13, 4/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires funds in Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund be continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Requires State Commission on Children and Families to adopt uniform and consistent rules throughout the state. Creates Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Task Force. Specifies member composition, structure and operation of task force. Adds provisions requiring task force to oversee state CASA Volunteer Programs. Disburses funds in Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund through DAS. Directs task force to ensure cost-efficiency, adopt policies, procedures, standards, guidelines and rules to assist in implementing its responsibilities for court appointed special advocate services. Transfers all duties, functions and powers of CASAs and CASA Volunteer Programs to judicial branch. On or before July 1, 2011, requires Commission to provide all records and property relating to CASAs and CASA Volunteer Programs, unexpended balances derived from dedicated revenues, expenditure classifications and Acts authorizing or limiting expenditures, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on behalf of judicial branch of state government. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- House Bill 3102 (2009) Ways and Means Committee Budget Note Directive
- State agency relocation options for CASAs and CASA Volunteer Programs
- Umbrella agency necessary for funding distribution to counties
- Previous legislative effort to relocate CASA program to Judicial Department in Senate Bill 775 (1999)
- CASAs appointed for abused and neglected children involved in a dependency case
- Duties of CASA volunteers
- Opponents purport lack of impartiality with CASAs being under agency the advocates are required to monitor
- Statistics on number of CASA volunteers, counties in CASA network and number of children served through CASA programs
- CASA budget per biennium
- Amendment review

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Requires funds in the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund be continuously appropriated to the Oregon DAS rather than the Court Appointed Special Advocate Commission. Requires commission to adopt uniform and consistent rules throughout the state. Creates Court Appointed Special Advocate Task Force. Specifies member composition, structure and operation of task force. Adds provisions requiring the task force to oversee state CASA Volunteer Programs. Disburses funds in Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund through DAS. Directs task force to ensure cost-efficiency, adopt policies, procedures, standards, guidelines and rules to assist in implementing its responsibilities for court appointed special advocate services. Transfers all duties, functions and powers of CASAs and CASA Volunteer Programs to judicial branch. On or before July 1, 2011, requires Commission to provide all records and property relating to CASAs and CASA Volunteer Programs, unexpended balances derived from dedicated revenues, expenditure classifications and Acts authorizing or limiting expenditures, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on behalf of judicial branch of state government.

**BACKGROUND:** The CASA program is currently located within the State Commission on Children and Families. A Blue Ribbon report issued May 25, 2010 states Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) determined that

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

the maturity of the CASA program indicated no longer need for housing in the OCCF. Report issued by the OCCF in response to legislative budget note requesting OCCF define the status of programs over which they have management obligations. Recommendation of OCCF staff was to place CASA into the Justice Department. In addition to the Blue Ribbon report, the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2011-13 moves the program into the Governor's Early Childhood Learning Program in the Governor's office.