

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Dingfelder, Kruse, Whitsett, Prozanski

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases number of Court of Appeals judges from 10 to 13 on July 1, 2012. Appropriates moneys from General Fund. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Court of Appeals' role in criminal and civil systems
- Workload study showing increase in both filings and complexity; Court 'treading water' and falling behind
- Maintaining standards, integrity of process, and access to justice
- Concern regarding effect of creeping delay on function of system as a whole, particularly as to appeals of criminal convictions and resolution of economic disputes

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: There has not been an increase in the number of Oregon Court of Appeals judges in 35 years. Senate Bill 388 enables one additional panel of three, along with corresponding staff. This increase is described as the minimum necessary for the Court to continue treading water.