

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	8 – 0 – 0
Yeas:	Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Parrish, Thompson, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Transfers authority over court appointed special advocates (CASA) and CASA Volunteer Programs (Programs) from State Commission on Children and Families to Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service (Commission). Becomes operative on May 1, 2012. Prescribes duties and responsibilities of Commission. Requires each Program to report biannually to Legislative Assembly on status with respect to statewide outcome or performance measures. Requires Judicial Department, Housing and Community Services Department (Department) and Commission to study and make recommendations on appropriate structure and operation for funding and administration of Programs in state to Legislative Assembly no later than September 30, 2014. Creates Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund (Fund) and continuously appropriates moneys in Fund to Department for Commission for purpose of providing court appointed special advocate services in state. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ability for Commission to have more oversight over CASA programs
- Background of program
- Funding mechanism

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Stipulates in order to be eligible, Program must be approved or sanctioned by juvenile court and have received accreditation from National CASA Association. Stipulates Commission to oversee provision of court appointed special advocate services by ensuring Programs adopt policies regarding provision of services and develop training for advocates rather than being directly responsible for development or adoption of trainings and policies. Requires each Program to report biannually to Legislative Assembly on status with respect to statewide outcome or performance measures. Requires Judicial Department, Housing and Community Services Department and Commission to study and make recommendations on appropriate structure and operation for funding and administration of Programs in state to Legislative Assembly no later than September 30, 2014. Removes sunset.

BACKGROUND: Federal and state laws mandate that the court shall appoint a CASA for every abused and neglected child involved in a dependency case. In 1987, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted what is now ORS 419A.170, mandating the appointment of a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for each of these children. CASA volunteers are trained, supported and supervised by local programs in each of Oregon's 36 counties. The CASA program is currently located within the State Commission on Children and Families. House Bill 4082A provides for the transfer of CASA program to the State Commission on Children and Families.

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