



Oregon Department of Justice

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 589 For the Senate Judiciary Committee March 6, 2013

Presented by:

**Kate Cooper Richardson, Director
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Department of Justice**

This testimony is presented in support of Senate Bill 589.

How This Bill Changes Current Law

The Oregon Child Support Program establishes and modifies child support orders using administrative procedures. When circumstances require a modification of the amount of child support and the previous order was determined in court, the current law requires that a judge must review the proposed modification and sign a separate order approving the administrative modification before it takes effect. This differs from modifications of orders that were originally issued by the Child Support Program, which are simply filed in court without judicial approval.

The bill repeals the requirement of a separate judicial approval, making an administrative modification effective on filing in court. The parties will continue to have the right to appeal the administrative order for a hearing in circuit court, when requested within sixty days.

The Child Support Program conferred with the Oregon Judicial Department in the drafting and submission of this measure.

Key Points of Legislation

- Provides faster processing of child support modifications to the benefit of the parties and families
- Reduces workload for courts and for the Child Support Program
- Maintains due process protections for parents through administrative hearing and de novo judicial appeal rights

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact from this bill.

Fiscal Benefits

This bill would save time and reduce workload for the courts and the Child Support Program.

Recommended Action

The Department of Justice recommends committee approval of Senate Bill 589 because it will provide faster child support modifications for families and reduce administrative burden on the courts and the Child Support Program.

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