

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Judiciary

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal Statement issued
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

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Meeting Dates: 2/10, 3/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires court to appoint court reporter for trial proceedings in aggravated murder cases. Authorizes State Court Administrator to establish policies for use of court reporters in aggravated murder cases.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- General differences between certified shorthand court reporters and electronic recording transcribers
- Specific instances in which each methodology failed
- National trends regarding which methodology is used
- Declining number of certified shorthand reporters in Oregon and nationwide
- Oregon no longer has its own testing program to certify shorthand court reporters

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Proposed (-1) Amendment modifies language regarding “court reporters” to be consistent with ORS 8.415 to 8.455.

BACKGROUND: Most trial courts in Oregon do not use court reporters. The record of the proceedings is typically kept by an audio recording system. ORS 8.340 permits courts to use court reporters, either upon its own motion or a motion of one of the litigants.

Senate Bill 384 modifies ORS 8.340 to require the court to appoint court reporters in aggravated murder cases. It also assigns the cost of the court reporter to the State Court Administrator.