

**SB 5533**

**Public Defense Services Commission**

---

SB 5533 is the budget bill for the Public Defense Services Commission. The Commission is the Judicial Branch agency responsible for establishing and maintaining the public defense system in Oregon. The Commission provides constitutionally- and statutorily-mandated representation in court to individuals eligible for these services by reason of financial inability to pay.

The Public Safety Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$276.2 million, including \$272.4 million General Fund and \$3.8 million Other Funds. The budget includes authorization for 77 positions (76.11 FTE).

The approved budget supports the level of public defense costs projected for the 2015-17 biennium, and includes an additional \$5.4 million General Fund to finance mileage reimbursements, and to increase case rates paid to private and consortia attorneys to the levels paid to public defender offices.

The budget also establishes a Deputy General Counsel position to administer the Parent Child Representation Program and coordinate that program's efforts to improve the quality of representation in juvenile dependency cases.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 5533 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.