

SB 5514

Judicial Department

SB 5514 is the budget bill for the Judicial Department. The Judicial Department operates the state's unified court system; including the circuit courts, the Tax Court, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. As such, the Department is responsible for adjudicating criminal cases, civil cases, and appeals. The Department is also responsible for the collection of court-ordered financial judgments.

The Public Safety Subcommittee approved a total budget of \$521.5 million, including \$421.3 million of General Fund, and 1,909 positions (1,774.83 FTE). The bill also rebalances the Department's 2013-15 biennium budget. The approved budget includes \$17.3 million of Article XI-Q bond proceeds to complete implementation of the Oregon eCourt Program. During the 2015-17 biennium, all remaining circuit courts, and the Tax Court, will transition to the eCourt system. \$3.5 million of General Fund and Other Funds support is added to enhance ongoing eCourt operations, and to help the department more fully utilize the new system's capabilities. General Fund is also provided to expand support for Family Law services.

Other Funds expenditures include:

- \$3.5 million for life and safety capital improvement projects at the Malheur and Wallowa Courthouses, and for smaller infrastructure projects at the Grant, Coos, Douglas, Clatsop and Josephine Courthouses, and
- \$1.1 million for supplemental funding for county courthouse security.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 5514 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.