

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date: 04/13/15

Action: Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference

Meeting Dates: 03/26, 04/13

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Barker, Barton, Greenlick, Krieger, Lininger, Olson, Post, Sprenger, Williamson

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases distribution to Legal Aid Account from \$11.9 million to \$15 million. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Services provided by Legal Aid
- Current sources of funding
- Providing access to justice in urban and rural areas
- Source for funding increase to be determined by Joint Committee on Ways and Means

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Legal aid programs in Oregon provide no-cost civil legal services to low-income individuals. There are two statewide providers of legal aid in Oregon: Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Oregon Law Center. There are also two county programs: Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center and the Center for Non-Profit Legal Services in Jackson County. Almost 40% of legal aid funding comes from the General Fund. The current biennial allocation amount is \$11.9 million. Nearly 25% of legal aid funding is from federal sources; 5% comes from interest earned on Lawyer Trust Accounts. The remaining 25% comes from a mix of federal funds and private funds.

House Bill 2329 increases the biennial allocation from \$11.9 million to \$15 million.