

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Directs Oregon State Bar to include in Legal Services Program methods of evaluation of legal services providers and support for Judicial Department's efforts to improve public access to and information about court system.

Modifies distribution from Legal Aid Account to Oregon State Bar from amounts collected as fees and charges in circuit courts. Directs State Court Administrator to adjust distribution annually based on changes in cost of living.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15

Relating to legal aid; amending ORS 9.572 and 9.577; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 9.572 is amended to read:

9.572. (1) The Oregon State Bar shall by rule establish a Legal Services Program. The program shall provide standards [*and*], guidelines **and methods of evaluation** for legal service providers receiving funding from the program **and support the Judicial Department's efforts to improve public access to and information about the court system.** [*The rules shall also provide methods for evaluating legal service providers.*] Funding received under the program may be used only for the provision of legal services to the poor without charge and for expenses incurred by the Oregon State Bar in the administration of the Legal Services Program.

(2) The Oregon State Bar shall appoint a director of the Legal Services

1 Program established under this section. The bar shall prescribe the duties
2 of the director and fix the salary of the director.

3 (3) The Oregon State Bar may establish any advisory or technical com-
4 mittees it deems necessary to advise the bar in establishing and operating
5 the Legal Services Program.

6 **SECTION 2.** ORS 9.577 is amended to read:

7 9.577. (1) The Legal Aid Account is established in the General Fund of the
8 State Treasury. All moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to
9 the State Court Administrator for the purpose of the distributions required
10 by this section. Interest earned by the account shall be credited to the Gen-
11 eral Fund.

12 (2) Each month, the State Court Administrator shall transfer to the Legal
13 Aid Account, from amounts collected by the State Court Administrator as
14 fees and charges in the circuit courts, the amounts necessary to make the
15 distributions required by subsection (3) of this section.

16 (3) Each [*biennium*] **quarter**, the State Court Administrator shall dis-
17 tribute to the Oregon State Bar [*\$11.9 million*] **the amount prescribed by**
18 **subsection (4) of this section** from the Legal Aid Account. [*Distributions*
19 *under this section shall be made by the State Court Administrator in eight*
20 *quarterly installments of equal amounts, with the first distribution to be made*
21 *as soon as possible after July 1, 2011*]. Amounts distributed to the Oregon
22 State Bar under this subsection may be used only for the funding of the Le-
23 gal Services Program established under ORS 9.572.

24 (4)(a) **In each of the quarters beginning July 1, 2019, and October**
25 **1, 2019, the State Court Administrator shall distribute to the Oregon**
26 **State Bar \$1.875 million from the Legal Aid Account.**

27 (b) **Beginning in 2019, and every year thereafter, the State Court**
28 **Administrator shall determine if there is a percentage increase in the**
29 **cost of living for the previous calendar year, based on changes in the**
30 **WEST - Size Class A Consumer Price Index, All Items as published by**
31 **the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of**

1 **Labor. If the State Court Administrator determines that there is an**
2 **increase in the cost of living for the previous calendar year, on or**
3 **before July 1 of the year in which the State Court Administrator**
4 **makes the determination required by this paragraph, the State Court**
5 **Administrator shall adjust the amount to be distributed to the Oregon**
6 **State Bar under this section in each quarter of the following calendar**
7 **year by multiplying the amount applicable to the quarter in which the**
8 **adjustment is made by any positive percentage amount determined**
9 **under this paragraph.**

10 **SECTION 3. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**
11 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**
12 **clared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.**

13
