

HB 2600 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Moves statewide oversight of CASA Volunteer Programs from Oregon Housing and Community Services to Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Nearly 1900 individuals volunteered in 2015-2016 to advocate for children in Oregon's juvenile dependency system. These volunteers are called Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASAs. As the name implies, CASAs are appointed by a court and provide a voice for the needs and desires of the children they represent. CASAs engage in the legal proceedings involving the child they represent and may make recommendations to the court. There are 26 individual CASA programs in Oregon serving 35 counties.

House Bill 2600 moves the state agency with oversight of CASA Volunteer Programs from Oregon Housing and Community Services to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.