

Legislative Fiscal Office

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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To: Public Safety Subcommittee

From: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Date: Monday, June 26, 2017

Subject: HB 2600 Relating to court appointed special advocates
Work Session Recommendations

House Bill 2600 transfers the CASA Volunteer Programs from the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service, currently in the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department, to the Criminal Justice Commission.

The measure has a proposed -6 amendment that would transfer the program to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) instead of to the Criminal Justice Commission. Additionally, the -6 amendment provides the language necessary to complete the transfer of the budgetary amounts. HB 5012, the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department budget bill, included \$2,501,299 General Fund for the CASA program, which included \$270,047 and 1 full-time position dedicated to administering the program. Additionally, the budget included \$2,231,252 of Other Funds limitation that is used to distribute special payments to local county CASA programs. The -6 amendment reduces the Housing Department's budget by these amounts and increases the DAS budget by these amounts.

The measure also has the following proposed language for a budget note to be included in the budget report:

Given the nature of the work currently performed by CASA and the nature of work routinely performed by the Department of Administrative Services, the transfer of the CASA program to DAS is intended to be transitional for the 2017-19 biennium. DAS shall work with Oregon Housing and Community Services, the Oregon CASA network, and other stakeholders to develop a plan for long-term placement and stability of the local CASA programs. This plan may include, but shall not be limited to: a review of the program's accounting and budgeting procedures and review of available options for the CASA program's permanent placement. DAS may consider execution of a contract to assist in this review, but is not required to expend additional funds other than funds transferred over and dedicated to the administration of the CASA program. DAS shall report back to the appropriate

subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee during the 2017 September Legislative Days on the status of the transition work.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that given the intention of this to be a transitional move, and the need for DAS to have flexibility in conducting a review of the program, the current full-time position is recommended to be adjusted from permanent to limited duration.

Recommended Changes

The -6 amendment moving the CASA program to DAS and adjusting the Housing Department budget and the DAS budget to reflect the CASA program’s move based on the amounts approved for the CASA program in HB 5012.

LFO recommends adoption of the -6 amendment.

MOTION: I move adoption of the -6 amendment to HB 2600. (VOTE)

LFO recommends adoption of the proposed budget note language.

MOTION: I move adoption of the proposed budget note language to HB 2600. (VOTE)

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 2600, as amended, to be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move HB 2600, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. (VOTE)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____