

SB 505

Relating to recording of grand jury proceedings

SB 505 requires county district attorneys to electronically record all grand jury proceedings, and to store and maintain copies of the audio recording. The measure provides for a phased-in implementation with Deschutes, Multnomah, and Jackson counties beginning to record grand jury proceedings on March 1, 2018, and all other counties in the state beginning on July 1, 2019.

The measure requires district attorneys to delegate recording and instruction to a grand juror, and to use the type of audio electronic recording devices provided and maintained by the Judicial Department.

Much of the costs of the measure are indeterminate, and will depend on the number of protective orders and preliminary hearings requested. Potentially impacted agencies include the courts, district attorneys, Department of Justice, Public Defense Services Commission, counties and cities. Due to the indeterminate nature, the measure sets aside \$8.5 million of General Fund in a special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board, from which affected entities may request funds to carry out the provisions of the measure. Additionally, \$1.5 million General Fund is provided to the Judicial Department to provide funding for recording equipment and court costs in the three early-implementing counties only.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 505 be amended by the –A13 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.