

HB 2171 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/14/17

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 10-0-1-0

Yeas: 10 - Barker, Gorsek, Greenlick, Lininger, Olson, Post, Sanchez, Stark, Vial, Williamson

Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service to maintain Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers at levels sufficient to appoint a CASA in each juvenile dependency case at caseloads of no more than 45 individual cases per volunteer. Requires supervisor in program to supervise no more than 30 CASA volunteers at a time. Appropriates money for compliance with provisions of measure. Declares emergency; effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for additional CASAs
- Need for additional funding

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Nearly 1,900 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. CASAs are appointed by a court to provide a voice for the needs and desires of the children they represent. CASAs engage in the legal proceedings involving the children they represent and may make recommendations to the court. There are 26 individual CASA programs in Oregon serving 35 counties.

House Bill 2171 requires CASA volunteer programs to maintain a volunteer base large enough to appoint a CASA for each juvenile dependency proceeding and meet the standards set out by the National CASA Association, which is to have at least one supervisor per 30 CASAs and no more than 45 cases per CASA.