

## HB 2600 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Judiciary

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**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

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#### 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:

- Why Criminal Justice Commission should provide oversight to CASA program
- Purpose of CASA volunteers

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