

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**Measure: SB 503 - A**

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session  
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official*

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Date: 5-12-2017

**Measure Description:**

Directs Judicial Department to establish uniform visitor policies.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

Judicial Department

**Summary of Expenditure Impact:**

<b>Agency -- Fund Type</b>	<b>2017-19 Biennium</b>	<b>2019-21 Biennium</b>
Oregon Judicial Department -- General Fund		
Personal Services Costs	\$98,029	\$106,735
Court Visitor Payments for Indigent Persons	\$145,200	\$193,600
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$243,229</b>	<b>\$300,335</b>

Position / FTE	1 / 0.44	1 / 0.50
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**Analysis:**

The measure directs the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) to adopt rules to establish uniform visitor policies, including standards, protocols and procedures to be used by visitors in the performance of their duties. The rules must establish minimum qualifications for visitors appointed by the court, including professional licensure or certifications necessary and completion of mandatory training for certain visitors relating to guardianships, conservatorships, and working with vulnerable adults.

In order to undertake the formulation and adoption of these rules, the Judicial Department anticipates establishing a work group to look at statewide uniform visitor policies. This process is anticipated to take approximately one year. Once rules are in place, the Department assumes that existing staff will be able to absorb the additional workload anticipated regarding review of visitor qualifications and any review and processing of visitor payments that would need to be created. The Department notes that funds will likely be needed to cover indigent protected persons and respondents that cannot pay for a court visitor, estimated at about \$96,800 per year or \$145,200 General Fund for the 2017-19 biennium based on the measures effective date and \$193,600 General Fund in 2019-21.

OJD states that a permanent half-time analyst position would be required to provide central support and program oversight of the new statewide visitor policy and provide education to judges and court staff. The estimated cost of this position is \$98,029 General Fund in 2017-19 and \$106,735 General Fund in 2019-21.