

**SB 186 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

---

**Prepared By:** Channa Newell, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 1/22

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Changes cost of living index used in yearly adjustments to Oregon Tort Claims Act liability limits. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Clarifies that new index applies to adjustments or determinations made on or after January 1, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:**

Tort claims against a public body, or the employee, officer, or agent of a public body that occur when the employee, officer, or agent is acting within the scope of their employment or duties, are covered by the Oregon Tort Claims Act. Under the act, the public body indemnifies the employee, officer, or agent and there are limits on the liability that can be imposed on the public body. Currently, those monetary figures are subject to an annual adjustment by the State Court Administrator to adjust for cost of living changes. Statute directs use of the "Portland-Salem, OR-WA Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items" in order to make that adjustment. The Consumer Price Indexes are maintained by the US Department of Labor Bureau of Statistics, which has discontinued use of the specific index specified in statute.

Senate Bill 186 redirects the State Court Administrator to use the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region for adjustments to the limits on liability.