

**TESTIMONY ON SB 186A
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO TORT CLAIMS ACT LIMITS
BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MARCH 4, 2019**

PRESENTED BY: BRUCE C. MILLER, OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

SB 186A amends three statutes to change the Consumer Price Index specified for calculating annual adjustments to the Oregon Tort Claims Act liability limits. Pursuant to ORS 30.271, 30.272, and 30.273, the State Court Administrator makes annual adjustments to those limits, effective each July 1.

The index currently specified in those statutes is the "Portland-Salem, OR-WA Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for All Items." However, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics no longer issues that index. SB 186A replaces that index with the "Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items)."

We have consulted with the Office of the Legislative Counsel and the Office of Economic Analysis and both agree that the "Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items)" is an appropriate replacement index. The House Revenue Committee has introduced HB 2118 that would designate this replacement index for use in a variety of statutory and session law references that need a similar update. That bill is in committee awaiting amendment.

SB 186A applies to adjustments made on or after January 1 of this year, making clear that adjustments made in previous years will not be recalculated. We seek early passage of SB 186A so that we can complete our calculations, post them for public comment, and finalize the 2019 adjustments in time to meet the July 1 deadline. For that reason, the bill includes an emergency clause. It passed out of Senate Judiciary on a vote of 7-0. It passed on the Senate Floor on a vote of 28-1.

Thank you for considering this measure.