

**SB 858 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

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**Prepared By:** Channa Newell, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/19

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Removes population floor for counties that may enter into agreement with Oregon Judicial Department or law library association regarding law library services. Allows any county to enter into such agreements.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the Oregon State Bar's Future Task Force, Oregon Judicial Department data shows that in 2016, nearly 80 percent of family law cases had at least one self-represented litigant. In landlord-tenant actions, for instance, over 90 percent of parties were self-represented. In light of the high number of self-represented litigants and changing legal needs, courts are seeking options for better assisting self-represented litigants. Currently, in order to enter into an agreement to provide law library services with the Judicial Department, law library association, or corporation to provide law library services, a county must have a population of at least 700,000 inhabitants.

Senate Bill 858 removes the population floor required for agreements to provide law library services, thus allowing all counties to enter into such agreements.