

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: SB 858**80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

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Measure Description:

Allows any county governing body to enter into intergovernmental agreement with Judicial Department to provide law library services or enter into contract with law library association or corporation owning and maintaining law library convenient to courthouse for use by legal community.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Oregon Judicial Department (OJD)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

This bill allows any county governing body to enter into intergovernmental agreement with the Oregon Judicial Department to provide law library services; or to enter into a contract with a law library association or corporation owning and maintaining a law library convenient to the courthouse for use by the legal community.

Current statute only allows the above for counties with more than 700,000 inhabitants.

Oregon Judicial Department

Counties are required by law to operate free law libraries or provide free law library services. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) provides funding to counties for law library operations and services. Counties also are statutorily authorized to use up to one-half of law library funds for conciliation/mediation services provided by counties.

The 2018 Legislative Assembly passed HB 4097, which authorized Multnomah County to use its law library funding to support court facilitation programs for family law and other case types. This bill expands that authority to all counties. Facilitation services may include providing educational materials, information about court procedures, and referrals to service-providing entities for a variety of case types, as well as assisting people without attorneys in filling out court forms beyond the family-law facilitation services currently authorized by law. These services would be provided free of charge. The county would use its law library funding to pay for any services that OJD agrees to provide.

OJD would need Other Funds expenditure limitation and position authority to provide services to any counties that enter into an agreement for these services with OJD. OJD's actual needs will depend on a multitude of factors including the number of counties that participate, the number of staff and other costs, and the timing of implementation. The fiscal impact to OJD is indeterminate at this time.