

HB 2570 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Action Date: 04/03/19

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Helt, Meek, Mitchell, Noble, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams, Zika

Exc: 1 - Keny-Guyer

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Amie FenderSosa, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/27, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$8,337,637 from General Fund to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the 2019-2021 biennium to expand the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Volunteer Program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History and status of CASA
- Critical role of CASA
- Critical funding need
- Importance of recruiting and training volunteers as diverse as the children they serve

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are designated in every judicial proceeding in juvenile court, and in every case involving an abused or neglected child. The advocates are a party to the proceedings. They may be represented by an attorney, file pleadings, and request hearings. They possess subpoena power, and may examine and cross-examine witnesses. They advocate for the child and operate at the court's discretion, and may investigate the case, bring matters to the court's attention, ensure that others fulfill their obligations to the child, and monitor court orders for compliance and modification.

House Bill 2570 appropriates \$8,337,637 from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the 2019-2021 biennium to support and expand the CASA Volunteer Program by recruiting and training a larger and more diverse group of advocates.