

HB 2244 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 04/04/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 11-0-0-0

Yeas: 11 - Barker, Bynum, Gorsek, Greenlick, Lewis, McLane, Piluso, Power, Sprenger, Stark, Williamson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Channa Newell, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands current CourtCare pilot programs to include Jackson County. Extends pilot program from January 2, 2021 to January 2, 2023. Requires report to interim committees on child welfare no later than September 15, 2021. Allows pilot counties to apply for grants to fund program. Appropriates \$370,000 for distribution of grants to pilot counties. Establishes Task Force on CourtCare. Specifies membership. Charges task force to study and recommend a long-term funding source for statewide CourtCare programs. Requires report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to child welfare no later than June 30, 2020. Directs Legislative Policy and Research Office to staff task force. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact to children of watching parents or loved ones in court proceedings
- Need of alternative child care when families are in court
- Current CourtCare programs
- Expansion of program and stable funding options

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

CourtCare is a program available in some Oregon circuit courts that provides child care within courthouses. This allows parents or guardians to leave children in a safe environment without exposing them to potentially traumatic courtroom proceedings.

House Bill 2244 A expands the current CourtCare pilot programs to include Jackson County and appropriates \$370,000 from the General Fund for continued operation of the pilot programs through January 2, 2023. The measure also creates the Task Force on CourtCare to study and recommend a long-term funding source for statewide CourtCare programs. The Task Force is required to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to child welfare no later than June 30, 2020 and directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staffing for the Task Force.