Representative Stark

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

District Attorneys and Their Deputies / Judicial Department / Association of Oregon Counties Grand Jury Recordation Report

On February 20th, the Public Safety Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the District Attorneys and Their Deputies, Judicial Department, and Association of Oregon Counties on grand jury recordation.

In 2017, the Legislature enacted SB 505 that required district attorneys to electronically record all grand jury proceedings, and to store and maintain copies of the audio recording. The Judicial Department is charged with providing and maintaining the recording equipment. District Attorneys are reporting that the recordation of grand jury hearings is going better than anticipated and that there is little, if any, move to preliminary hearings.

In 2019, the Legislature raised questions regarding how grand jury recordation could be delivered in the most efficient, consistent, and economical method given services are required in each of the 36 counties and the Legislature's funding of similar recordation services for state courts.

While the District Attorneys, Judicial Department, and Association failed to achieve complete consensus, they did agree in several areas and made important progress in helping to define the outstanding issues and possible solutions.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.