

**HB 2214 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**House Committee On General Government**

**Carrier:** Rep. Leif

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**Action Date:** 03/11/21  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 4-0-1-0  
**Yeas:** 4 - Leif, Lively, Wilde, Zika  
**Exc:** 1 - Smith Warner  
**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Caine Francis, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 1/28, 3/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Limits compensation rates for special legal assistants or outside counsel hired by the Attorney General or state agency. Requires appointing agency make available to the public a statement of justification to compensate special legal assistants or private counsel an amount that exceeds the greater of: 200 per cent of the standard hourly rate that would have been charged by the Attorney General for the same services; or a rate established by the Attorney General for this purpose. Clarifies agency of state government as defined in ORS 174.111. Clarifies agency in executive department as defined in ORS 174.112. Clarifies legislative department, as defined in ORS 174.114.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Attorney compensation rates

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Statute authorizes the Attorney General to appoint other assistants the Attorney General deems necessary to transact the business of the office. State agencies may employ their own counsel whenever the Attorney General concludes that it is inappropriate and contrary to the public interest for the office of the Attorney General to concurrently represent more than one public officer or agency in a particular matter or class of matters in circumstances which could create a conflict of interest on the part of the Attorney General.

House Bill 2214 A sets limits on compensation for outside or special counsel hired by the Attorney General or a state agency that exceeds the greater of: 200 per cent of the cost of the same services provided by the Attorney General; or a rate established by the Attorney General for this purpose. Exemptions from these compensation limits require the appointing agency make a statement of justification available to the public. The provisions of the measure apply to an agency in the executive department or the legislative department.