

## HB 2738 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Human Services

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**Action Date:** 04/12/21

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

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Leif, Noble, Owens, Ruiz, Sanchez, Schouten, Williams

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

**Prepared By:** Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/8, 4/5, 4/7, 4/12

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Replaces Department of Administrative Services (DAS) discretion to contract, with *requirement* to contract, with a nongovernmental statewide coordinating entity to oversee Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer Programs and services. Makes other modifications consistent with this end and requires contracted entity to ensure CASA compliance with National CASA Association standards and with Oregon's Juvenile Code. Makes distribution of funds to CASA Volunteer Programs contingent on submission of annual diversity, equity, inclusion, and accountability plan to statewide coordinating entity. Appropriates to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund: \$5,670,000 for the CASA Volunteer Program and \$250,000 for the Oregon CASA Network for a statewide distance training and learning program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The impact of CASAs on children in foster care
- Increasing capacity of CASA Volunteer Programs
- Preparation for a post-COVID-19 surge in children entering the foster care system

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

#### BACKGROUND:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are specially trained volunteers appointed by courts to advocate for the best interests of children. The Oregon CASA Network, an affiliate of the National CASA Association, is the statewide organization supporting Oregon's 22 local CASA Volunteer Programs. The local programs recruit, screen, train, and support CASA volunteers.

House Bill 2738 A appropriates to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund: \$5,670,000 for the CASA Volunteer Program and \$250,000 for the Oregon CASA Network for a statewide distance training and learning program.