

**HB 4121 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Wallan

**House Committee On Judiciary**

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**Action Date:** 02/08/22

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Vote:** 10-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 10 - Bynum, Dexter, Helm, Kropf, Lewis, Morgan, Noble, Power, Wallan, Wilde

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Amie Fender-Sosa, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/1, 2/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows presiding judges to appoint child support referees. Sets minimum qualifications and requires partial compensation for the position to be paid from Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. Specifies the types of cases that may be referred to a child support referee. Allows for de novo review by the circuit court, either by party request or by the circuit court's own motion; creates timelines for review. Gives a child support referee's order the same force and effect of a circuit court judgment.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Allowing referees to serve statewide for child support and parentage matters
- Leveraging federal dollars
- Out-of-pocket costs for Oregon
- Qualifications required to serve as a referee
- Administrative vs. court processes
- De novo review process

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Court referees perform certain work of circuit court judges in specialized areas. Oregon utilizes referees in Juvenile Court. House Bill 4121 would create the statutory authority for presiding judges to delegate certain child support and parentage matters to a referee; it would allow for de novo review of a referee's ruling by a circuit court, and require the position to be partially paid for through Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (Appropriations for Child Support and Establishing Paternity).