

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 1543

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2022 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Provides for nonprofit organization that addresses and executes worker relief to serve as fiscal agent to award grants to organizations to provide services related to immigration matters through universal representation program.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Oregon State Treasurer (OST), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

This measure appropriates General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for funds to be deposited into the Universal Representation Fund and to the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) for funds to be transferred to the Oregon State Bar for use by the Legal Services Program. The measure establishes the Universal Representation Fund separate and distinct from the General Fund. This measure requires an established Oregon nonprofit to serve as the fiscal agent to award grants to organizations to provide services related to immigration matters through the Universal Presentation Program, at no cost to the client.

This measure specifies standards and guidelines for use of funds for the fiscal agent and for the Legal Services Program. The fiscal agent is required to convene an advisory committee that meets periodically to make recommendations relating to the coordination of services, standards, guidelines, and the development of best practices and other matters related to universal representation. No later than August 31 of each year, the fiscal agent is required to submit a report to the committee of the Legislature, DAS, and the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO). The measure specifies the minimum amount of information that must be included in the report and declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

Department of Administrative Services

This measure appropriates \$10.5 million General Fund to the agency for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, for deposit into the Universal Representation Fund. The agency should disburse the funds to a nonprofit organization registered in Oregon that addresses and executes worker relief. DAS anticipates there will be costs associated with developing a contract with Oregon Worker Relief to administer funds however, DAS reports these costs will be absorbable within existing resources.

Oregon Judicial Department

This measure appropriates \$4.5 million General Fund to OJD for the biennium ending June 30, 2023 and requires the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to transfer funds appropriated to the Oregon State Bar for use by the Legal Services Program. OJD reports that the Department already acts as in this pass-through capacity for other funds transferred to the Oregon State Bar, and therefore can absorb this activity within existing resources.

Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO)

LFO estimates this measure to have a minimal fiscal impact. The measure directs the fiscal agent to submit a report to a committee of the Legislature, DAS, and LFO on the grants awarded. However, the measure does not require DAS or LFO to take any action upon receipt of the report. LFO assumes the Office will use existing staff and resources to review these reports to ensure that funds were distributed and used in compliance with the requirements of the measure.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its General Fund impact.