

**SB 696 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

---

**Prepared By:** Patricia Pascone, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/22

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Appropriates General Fund moneys for an attorney in the Oregon Department of Justice focused on animal cruelty.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Humane special agents are peace officers commissioned by the Superintendent of the Oregon State Police, at the request of a humane investigation agency. They are vested with authority to investigate and enforce animal welfare laws, including prohibitions on animal abuse and neglect. The special agents are employees of the humane investigation agencies, and the agencies are responsible for the agents' salaries.

There is one prosecutor in Oregon dedicated to animal abuse and neglect cases, based out of Benton County but providing assistance to other counties around the state. That position is currently funded by a grant from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, awarded in three-year cycles.

Senate Bill 696 would fund a statewide animal-cruelty focused position within the Department of Justice.