

**HB 2308 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Judiciary**

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

**Meeting Dates:** 3/21, 3/29

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires all district attorneys to be paid at the same rate. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon's 36 district attorneys (DAs) prosecute violations of laws and ordinances and are employees of the state. Their work includes early and special resolution programs, services to victims, child support collections, prosecuting civil forfeitures, and presenting evidence at mental health hearings. Thirty-three of the DAs represent the state in complex dependency cases, funded primarily with county funds and partially with Department of Human Services grants. District attorneys additionally advise the county court and other county officers on all legal questions and defend the county and its officers and employees in civil legal proceedings against the county or its officials or employees for their official acts. Counties are permitted to supplement a DA's salary. Counties are wholly responsible for deputy district attorney salaries, as well as facilities, supplies, staff support, and fees for witnesses, experts, and court recording or transcription services. The Oregon Department of Justice provides some centralized services and support to the DAs.

ORS 8.852 requires the state to pay a DA according to the salary schedule for unclassified or management service employees. In 2021, DAs in ten counties with populations over 100,000 received \$191,000 in annual compensation, and all other DAs received \$165,000 in compensation. Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 839-008-0010 defines when work is 'comparable' for purposes of pay equity in the categories of knowledge, skills, effort, responsibility, and working conditions, and OAR 839-008-0015 describes bona fide factors in these categories that may be considered in paying employees at different compensation levels.

House Bill 2308 would require that all 36 district attorneys are paid at the same rate.