

SB 235 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/06/23

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser Blouin, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patricia Pascone, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds one Circuit Court judicial position in each judicial district for Jackson, Lane, Clackamas, Josephine, and Douglas counties, and two Circuit Court judicial positions in Washington County. Takes effect October 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 2016 study estimated that Oregon's state courts need 36 additional judicial positions
- Position requests are prioritized to districts with highest need
- Backlog impacts on parties to proceedings
- Appointment and election process for judges
- Consultation with county commissioners

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A 2016 report by the National Center for State Courts concluded that Circuit Courts in the following counties were under-allocated judicial positions as compared to their predicted workload demands: Jackson, -6.11; Lane -1.63; Clackamas, -3.35; Josephine, -1.28; Douglas, -2.19; Washington, -4.65. One additional Circuit Court judicial position each was since allocated for Jackson, Josephine, and Washington counties. The requested positions are part of Policy Option Package 108 in the Chief Justice's Recommended Budget for the 2023-2025 Biennium.

Senate Bill 235 would allocate additional Circuit Court judicial positions in Jackson, Lane, Clackamas, Josephine, Douglas, and Washington counties.