

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2224 - A

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Increases fees paid to jurors and provides for adjustment of fees to reflect increases in cost of living.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Judicial Department

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

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

Analysis:

The measure increases fees paid to jurors for the first two days of circuit court from the current rate of \$10 to \$50 for each required day, and the fees for the third and subsequent days of circuit court from \$25 to \$60 for each required day. The measure allows the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) to periodically increase fees paid to jurors who are required to provide service in circuit court to align with changes to the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. Increased fees become effective July 1 following the election to increase fees. The measure is effective on the 91st day after sine die.

In addition, the measure increases the mile reimbursement rate for jurors from the current rate of \$0.20 per mile to \$0.655 per mile when using privately owned motor vehicles and the rate is to be equivalent to the reimbursement rates established by the United States General Services Administration (U.S. GSA).

The fiscal impact of this measure is \$18.6 million for the 2023-25 biennium and \$21.2 million for the 2025-27 biennium. The 2023-25 Chief Justice's Recommended Budget included policy package 112 for \$21 million General Fund to cover the increased fees paid and mile reimbursement to jurors. The policy package will need to be adjusted to account for the U.S. GSA reimbursement rate increasing from \$0.625 to \$0.655 as of January 1, 2023 and the package being budgeted for a 24-month period rather than a 21-month period for the 2023-25 biennium based on the effective date of the measure.

LFO notes that the statutory rate for fees paid to jurors in courts, other than circuit courts remains at \$10 a day and the overall impact of Section 1(c) of the measure that allows OJD to periodically increase fees is indeterminate and could have an on-going budget impact depending on changes to the Consumer Price Index. The measure would allow OJD to increase fees paid to jurors administratively and doesn't specify how often OJD can increase fees. Lastly, LFO notes that Section 2 of the measure could also have an on-going budgetary impact due to how often the U.S. GSA increases mile reimbursement rates. Historically, rates have been increased January 1 each year.

This measure has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact on the State's General Fund.