FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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:

Establishes Public Defense Services Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program in Oregon State Bar to provide forgivable loans to eligible public defense attorneys for outstanding student loans.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

State Treasurer, Judicial Department, Public Defense Services Commission, Department of Justice

Analysis:

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the House Committee on Judiciary to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

The measure establishes the Public Defense Services Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program within the Oregon State Bar. The measure requires the Public Services Defense Commission (PDSC) to report, no later than August 31 of each year, on the Public Defense Services Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program to a committee or interim committee of the Legislative Assembly. The measure also directs PDSC to promote policies for public defense provider compensation and resources that is commensurate with stat employees providing comparable services or in comparable job classifications.

In addition, the measure authorizes PDSC to provide grants to entities that contract with the commission for specific services and law schools in Oregon for projects designed to increase the number of graduates choosing employment as public defense providers. The measure requires PDSC to develop a training program and coordinate with professional associations to provide continuing legal education opportunities for employees of the office of public defense services. The measure takes effect on the 91sdt day after sine die.

A more complete fiscal analysis on the measure will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Further Analysis Required