

## SB 915 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Judiciary

---

**Action Date:** 04/03/23

**Action:** Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

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

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Adrienne Anderson, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/29, 4/3

---

#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates a Deadly Force Prosecution Unit within the Criminal Justice Division of the Department of Justice specializing in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving law enforcement use of force that results in death. Appropriates moneys from the General Fund for the purposes of this unit.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- District Attorney (DA) assist allows the Department of Justice to assist DA's offices with any criminal matter upon request
- This bill is a resource for DA's offices, not a mandate
- Potential conflicts of interest between local prosecutor and law enforcement

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

Seven states' Departments of Justice, including California, investigate officer involved shootings resulting in death in their state, as opposed to the local district attorney. In September 2020, California Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1506 into law requiring the Attorney General to investigate incidents of an officer-involved shooting resulting in death of an unarmed civilian. There are 14 Assistant Attorneys General (AAG) in the Criminal Justice Division in the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ); half of the AAGs are resource AAGs and the other half are DA Assist AAGs. The DA Assist AAGs help DA's offices around the state when the office does not have the resources to prosecute a certain case or when a conflict arises.

Senate Bill 915 creates a Deadly Force Prosecution Unit within DOJ to investigate and prosecute law enforcement use of force that results in death cases and appropriates moneys from the General Fund to fund that unit.