

SB 710 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/21, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to establish minimum continuing education requirements for judges of the county circuit courts, tax court, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court. It further provides that the continuing education requirements established by the measure must include evidence-based and trauma-informed education related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other matters related to interpersonal violence. Finally, the measure directs the State Court Administrator to submit a report, no later than September 15, 2027, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the judiciary regarding compliance with the requirements established by the Chief Justice pursuant to the measure. The measure repeals the reporting requirement on January 2, 2028.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Relevance of domestic violence and sexual assault training in all types of cases, not just criminal
- Evidence-based and trauma-informed training to assist judges handling cases involving domestic and sexual violence
- Judges not currently required to have specialized training on topics proposed by measure
- Kayden's law
- Need for adequate funding of training efforts
- Percentage of self-represented individuals in family law cases

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 8.125 states that the State Court Administrator shall, to the extent directed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, establish and supervise education programs for judges, other officers, and employees of the courts of this state and municipal courts pertinent to the performance of the functions of those judges, other officers, and employees. The administrative and supervisory authorities of the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court over the Oregon Judicial Department are enumerated in ORS 1.002.

Senate Bill 710 A directs the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court to establish minimum continuing education requirements for judges and provides that the requirements established by the measure must include evidence-based and trauma-informed education related to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other matters related to interpersonal violence.