FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Establishes Task Force on Court Reporting.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Counties, Judicial Department

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure establishes the Task Force on Court Reporting directed to the following: review the available types of court reporting systems, review Oregon and national court reporting certifications, evaluate better utilization of recording court proceedings, evaluate the need for Oregon courts to update recording equipment, and evaluate the type of reporting system Oregon courts should use. The task force is required to submit a report to the Legislature by April 30, 2016. The measure is effective on passage and the task force is repealed December 31, 2017.

The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is directed to provide staff support to the task force and to reimburse members of the task force for travel and other expenses incurred in their performance of task force duties. The measure stipulates that the monies for reimbursement are to come from funds appropriated to OJD for purposes of the task force. However, the bill does not appropriate additional funds to OJD, which would seem to suggest that expenses for reimbursement and staff support are intended to come from its Legislatively Approved Budget, which does not contemplate expenditures for this purpose.

The fiscal impact of this bill to OJD is indeterminate depending on the scope of work undertaken by the task force, as well as the number of meetings, and geographic location of task force members. At a minimum, OJD anticipates needing additional limited duration administrative staff support for approximately 10 months to support the work of the task force, with an estimated cost of \$88,700.