Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session   **MEASURE: HB 2337**
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Judiciary

Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No Revenue Impact
Action Date:	02/25/15
Action:	Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference
Meeting Dates:	02/25
Vote:	
	Yeas: 9 **-** Barker, Barton, Greenlick, Krieger, Lininger, Olson, Post, Sprenger, Williamson
Prepared By:	Laura Handzel, Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:
Adds one additional judge to Third, Fourth and Twentieth judicial districts. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current creative uses of limited resources
- Various functions of judges, including treatment court, family court, and settlement conferences
- Effects of judicial staffing shortfalls
- Importance of judicial efficiency
- Need for at least 2.5 additional judges in Marion County
- Need for at least one additional judge in Multnomah County
- Need for at least four additional judges in Washington County
- Recognition that more judges needed throughout state
- Justice Reinvestment Act (House Bill 3194) of 2013

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:
No amendment.

BACKGROUND:
Population growth along with a sizeable increase in civil case filings in Marion, Multnomah and Washington Counties presents a need for more circuit court judges in the Third, Fourth and Twentieth judicial districts respectively. These three counties last received an increase in elected judicial positions during the 2001-03 biennium.

House Bill 2337 adds one judge each to Marion, Multnomah and Washington Counties, who will assume duty on the first Monday in January of 2017. The bill becomes operative on its effective date only for the purposes of nominating and electing new judges in 2016 in order for them to assume duty in January of 2017. House Bill 2337 also appropriates funds in an amount to be determined out of the General Fund, which may be used to pay the costs associated with the additional positions.