

SB 357 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs State Court Administrator to distribute funds to the Oregon State Bar each quarter. Instructs State Court Administrator on timing and manner of calculating future distributions. Directs Oregon State Bar to include methods of evaluation for legal services providers and support efforts to improve public access to and information about the court system. Declares an emergency.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies timing and manner of calculating future distributions.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 9.572 established the Legal Services Program through the Oregon State Bar. Funding received under the program must be used to provide legal services to the poor without charge as well as for expenses incurred by the Oregon State Bar in the administration of the program. ORS 9.577 established the Legal Aid Account in the General Fund of the State Treasury. Presently, the State Court Administrator distributes a fixed amount to the Oregon State Bar from the Legal Aid Account. These distributions are made in eight quarterly installments of equal amounts. This fixed amount was last adjusted in 2011.

SB 357 ties future distribution amounts to increases in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region.