

HB 2738 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 4/5, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$5,670,000 and \$250,000 to the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Fund, in addition to any other appropriations, for the CASA Volunteer Program and for training, respectively. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- CASA Volunteer Program's impact on children in foster care
- Increased capacity of CASA Volunteer program
- Preparation for a post-COVID-19 surge in children entering the foster system

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are specially trained volunteers appointed by courts to advocate for the best interests of children. The Oregon CASA Network, an affiliate of the National CASA Association, is the statewide organization supporting Oregon's 22 local CASA programs. The local programs recruit, screen, train and support CASA volunteers.

House Bill 2738 appropriates General Fund dollars to support the CASA Volunteer Program and the statewide training of CASA volunteers.