

## **HB 2944 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Rules**

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**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/8

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Legislative Assembly to provide translator and interpreter services free of charge in order to facilitate witness participation in committee hearings; facilitate dialogue in informal meetings with one or more members; as required by federal Americans with Disabilities Act; or for constituent outreach activities. Requires verbal or written requests for services to be made to Legislative Administrator by specified date for translator and interpreter services. Requires Legislative Administrator, upon request of member of Legislative Assembly, to provide translator or interpreter services for specified types of written material. Appropriates General Fund moneys to Legislative Administration Committee to fund translator and interpreter services.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

A legislative workgroup on language access services formed in November of 2020. The group identified its goal to ensure meaningful access to the legislative process for limited English proficiency Oregonians; to provide a single point of contact for language access services; and to prioritize the following language access services:

- oral interpretation for testifying in committees;
- oral interpretation for answering constituent queries;
- oral interpretation for meetings with legislators;
- written translation for website materials, including meeting agendas, information about bills, and instructions for how to engage with the process; and
- signage for wayfinding at the Capitol.

House Bill 2944 requires the Legislative Assembly to provide translator and interpreter services free of charge in order to facilitate witness participation in committee hearings; facilitate dialogue in informal meetings with one or more members; to comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; or for constituent outreach activities.