

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 3230 - 7

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Establishes Universal Representation Fund. Appropriates \$10,500,000 General Fund for deposit into the Universal Representation Fund. Appropriates \$4,500,000 General Fund to the Judicial Department.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

HB 3230 with the -7 amendment appropriates a total of \$15 million General Fund in the following amounts for the following purposes:

- \$10,500,000 General Fund for deposit into the Universal Representation Fund. The measure establishes the Universal Representation Fund separate from the General Fund. Moneys in the Fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to disburse to a nonprofit organization registered in Oregon that addresses and executes worker relief to serve as the fiscal agent to award grants to organizations to provide services related to immigration matters.
- \$4,500,000 General Fund to the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). The measure requires the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to transfer funds appropriated to the Oregon State Bar for use by the Legal Services Program.

The measure specifies standards and guidelines for use of funds for the fiscal agent and for the Legal Services Program. The fiscal agent is required to submit a report to a committee of the Legislature, DAS, and the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) on the grants awarded. The measure specifies the minimum amount of information that must be included in the report. The measure contains an emergency clause and takes effect on passage.

Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD)

Passage of this measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact to DAS and OJD. Assuming that DAS would treat moneys in the Universal Representation Fund as direct appropriations and that DAS would not be responsible for contracting out or determining the proper fiscal agent, DAS anticipates absorbing this work with existing staff and resources. OJD reports that the Department already acts as in this pass-through capacity for other funds transferred to the Oregon State Bar, and therefore can absorb this activity with existing resources.

Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO)

The fiscal impact of this measure on LFO is anticipated to be minimal. The measure directs the fiscal agent to submit a report to a committee of the Legislature, DAS, and the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) on the grants awarded. However, the measure does not require DAS or LFO to take any action upon receipt of the report. LFO assumes the Office will use existing staff and resources to review these reports to ensure that funds were distributed and used in compliance with the requirements of the measure.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of General Fund impact.