

HB 2003 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands membership of Public Defense Services Commission from seven to nine members. Modifies qualifications of members. Modifies duties of commission. Directs commission to adopt specified policies, including policies concerning compensation, caseloads and oversight. Directs commission to report on implementation of changes to committees of Legislative Assembly related to judiciary by February 1, 2022. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, the Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC) oversees Oregon Public Defense Services (OPDS) as the state agency responsible for establishing and maintaining a public defense system that provides effective defense counsel for indigent defendants in criminal proceedings, youth in delinquency proceedings, and parents and children in dependency proceedings. In 2018, the Sixth Amendment Center, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that provides technical assistance and evaluation services to policymakers focusing on the constitutional requirement to provide effective assistance of counsel, assessed the PDSC, OPDS, and the public defense systems they maintain. The Sixth Amendment Center recommended changes to Oregon's public defense system.

House Bill 2003 revises certain statutes relating to the Public Defense Services Commission and the Office of Public Defense Services to address some of the Sixth Amendment Center's recommendations.