

**FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

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

**Measure: HB 2239 - A**

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

---

Prepared by: Libby Chamberlin  
Reviewed by: Julie Neburka, John Borden, Zane Potter, Laurie Byerly  
Date: April 13, 2021

---

**Measure Description:**

Directs the Oregon Judicial Department to establish a centralized veteran's treatment court.

**Government Unit(s) Affected:**

District Attorneys and their Deputies (DAs), Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC), Counties, Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

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

**Analysis:**

House Bill 2239 directs the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) to establish, by July 1, 2023, a centralized veterans' treatment court that counties may choose to participate in provided the county meets certain conditions as established by OJD. The measure requires OJD to report to the legislature by October 1, 2021 on the feasibility of establishing the court, and by October 1, 2022 on the associated operational costs. The measure contains a blank appropriation to OJD for this work and takes effect upon passage.

To plan for and implement the new court program by July 1, 2023, OJD believes it would need to hire three new permanent full-time positions (3.00 FTE) in the 2021-23 biennium. These three positions and the initial work of the program would cost the Department an estimated \$859,645 General Fund, decreasing slightly to \$851,645 General Fund in the 2023-25 biennium once the program is established. OJD has priced these positions for the full 2021-23 biennium, although they may not reasonably be able to hire them by July 1, 2021, so the costs may be slightly lower than stated.

OJD also believes that the new court will require one judge to preside over the centralized operations of the veterans' treatment court and positions for data tracking and program administration work. OJD's fiscal impact estimate does not yet include these costs; the agency anticipates requesting these additional funds during the 2022 session. In addition, funding will be needed for the license for the statewide specialty court case management system.

The Public Defense Services Commission and the counties both believe this measure will have a fiscal impact, but the cost is indeterminate and would be based on the number of counties that opt into the program.

The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, the Criminal Justice Commission, and the District Attorneys and their Deputies do not anticipate a fiscal impact from this measure.

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