

SB 97 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Abby Shearer, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes counties to increase fees for marriage licenses and Declarations of Domestic Partnership up to \$50 above the base fee (\$25) and permits periodic adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Requires each county treasurer to provide quarterly financial reports on conciliation and mediation accounts to the presiding judge of the judicial district in which the county is located. Requires the presiding judge of each judicial district to provide an annual financial report of the conciliation and mediation account to the State Court Administrator. Sets deadlines for the first quarterly reports by October 31, 2025, and annual reports by July 31, 2026. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires counties to maintain conciliation and mediation accounts funded by fees from marriage licenses and Declarations of Domestic Partnership to support domestic relations cases. The current fee cap is \$10 over the base fee, a total of \$35. SB 97 raises the fee cap to \$50 (total of \$75), ties future adjustments to the Consumer Price Index, and requires financial reporting of these accounts.