

HB 2582 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes the references to the National CASA Association in statute. The measure requires that entities coordinating and providing court appointed special advocate (CASA) services follow nationally recognized CASA standards, rather than requiring them to be members of the National CASA Association.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

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EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and guardian ad litem (GAL) volunteers are appointed by courts to advocate for children's interests during court proceedings. [ORS 184.492](#) directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to contract with a nongovernmental entity to coordinate the provision of court appointed special advocate services in Oregon.

[The National CASA Association](#) was founded in 1977 in Seattle, Washington. [Oregon's CASA Network](#) is the statewide organization that supports Oregon's 20 local CASA programs. The local programs recruit, screen, train, and support CASA volunteers.

In March 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) placed a [temporary freeze](#) on the National CASA Association funding for its active awards and designated the National CASA Association as a DOJ high-risk grantee. The DOJ has since lifted the funding freeze.