

## SB 135 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Human Services

---

**Prepared By:** Taylor Bickel, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/6

---

#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires certain advisory councils, advisory committees, and review teams to include court appointed special advocates (CASAs) in their membership.

#### Detailed Summary:

- Defines CASA as a person in a CASA Volunteer Program who is appointed by a court to act as a court appointed special advocate.
- Requires the addition of current or former CASAs to:
  - The Governor’s Child Foster Care Advisory Commission;
  - Domestic violence fatality review teams establish by local domestic violence coordinating councils;
  - The Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Advisory Committee;
  - County child abuse multidisciplinary teams developed by each county’s district attorney;
  - The Advisory Council on Child Abuse Assessment; and
  - The System of Care Advisory Council.
- Requires the Department of Human Services to include a current CASA on a Critical Incident Review Team selected from a list of three to five potential nominees with no prior contact with or knowledge of the deceased child or their family.

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

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

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

#### 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. In 2021, the legislature passed [HB 2738](#) which required the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to contract with a nongovernmental statewide coordinating entity to oversee the CASA Volunteer Programs and services.

[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.