

HB 2306 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes the Marion County Board of Commissioners to establish a justice of the peace district that includes the county seat and areas served by a circuit court. It increases the maximum claim amount in small claims departments of circuit and justice courts from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and requires annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The bill also increases the statutory fee for solemnizing marriages from \$117 to \$200 and allows adjustments based on changes in the CPI. Additionally, it directs the Department of State Police to allow justice courts to verify defendants' addresses using the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment allows Josephine County to establish a justice of the peace district that includes the county seat and areas served by a circuit court.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, most justice court districts are prohibited from including a county seat where a circuit court regularly sits, with limited exceptions. House Bill 2306 adds Marion County to the list of counties that may establish such a district. Oregon's small claims jurisdiction thresholds and marriage solemnization fees have not been updated for inflation in recent years. The measure adjusts these amounts and creates a mechanism for automatic annual updates based on cost-of-living changes. It also provides justice courts with direct access to LEDS for address verification.