

## HB 2582 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Human Services

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**Meeting Dates:** 4/15

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure removes the references to the National CASA Association in statute. The measure requires that statewide and local entities that coordinate and provide court appointed special advocate (CASA) services follow nationally recognized CASA standards, rather than requiring the entities to be affiliated with the National CASA Association.

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

*FISCAL: No fiscal impact*

*HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 56; Nays 0; Excused, 4*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Court appointed special advocates (CASA) and guardian ad litem volunteers are appointed by courts to advocate for children's interests during court proceedings. In 2017, [House Bill 2600](#) transferred and consolidated statewide coordination of CASA services in the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). In 2021, the legislature passed [House Bill 2738](#) which required 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. The [Oregon CASA Network](#) is the statewide affiliate 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. DOJ has since lifted the funding freeze.