

# SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

## Department of Justice

### Nonunanimous Jury Conviction Caseloads

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Public Safety Subcommittee  
Carrier: Senator Broadman

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On April 21st, the Public Safety Subcommittee received a report from the Oregon Department of Justice on nonunanimous jury conviction caseloads.

The Department was directed under SB 5514 in the 2023 session to report to the 2025 Legislature on the department's trial and appellate caseloads and costs, including a projection for the 2025-27 biennium, related to nonunanimous jury convictions under the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Ramos v. Louisiana* and the Oregon Supreme Court decision in *Watkins v. Ackley*.

The Department provided background information on nonunanimous jury convictions in Oregon and the impact of court rulings that led to more than 1,000 individuals who had been convicted of crimes in Oregon challenging the validity of those convictions. The Trial Division, which handles civil proceedings for post-conviction relief, managed 850 petitions filed by individuals serving prison sentences in trial court. As of the report submission, 120 cases remain pending with an estimate that it will take 2 years to reach resolution. The Appellate Division, which handles cases related to direct criminal appeals and post-conviction appeals, managed over 700 cases. Of these cases, the direct appeals are now complete and approximately 60 claims for post-conviction relief remain pending with several years remaining before resolution.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.