

SB 97 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/29, 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure authorizes counties to increase fees for marriage licenses and Declarations of Domestic Partnership up to \$35 above the base fee (\$25) and permits periodic adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It requires each county treasurer to provide quarterly financial reports on conciliation and mediation accounts to the presiding judge of the judicial district in which the county is located. Finally, the measure directs the presiding judge of each judicial district to provide an annual financial report of the conciliation and mediation account to the State Court Administrator and sets deadlines for the first quarterly reports by October 31, 2025, and annual reports by July 31, 2026. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 19; Nays, 11

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Consumer price index provision
- Other fees associated with marriage licenses
- Whether the funds go directly towards mediation and conciliation services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires counties to maintain conciliation and mediation accounts funded by fees from marriage licenses and Declarations of Domestic Partnership to support domestic relations cases. The current fee cap is \$10 over the base fee, a total of \$35. Senate Bill 97 raises the fee cap to \$35 (total of \$55), ties future adjustments to the Consumer Price Index, and requires financial reporting of these accounts.