

HB 2582 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Neron

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 02/11/25

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 6-0-3-0

Yeas: 6 - Elmer, Hartman, Javadi, McIntire, Nosse, Scharf

Exc: 3 - Nguyen H, Ruiz, Walters

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Taylor Bickel, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes the references to the National CASA Association in statute. The measure requires that entities coordinating and providing court appointed special advocate (CASA) services follow nationally recognized CASA standards, rather than requiring them to be members of the National CASA Association.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- National CASA Association finances
- Work of CASA volunteers

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.

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.