



Legislative Fiscal Office
 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
 2025 Regular Session

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 Date: February 26, 2025

Bill Title: Relating to state finance; declaring an emergency.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Justice

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Justice	\$ 21,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,500,000		
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 21,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,500,000	-	-

2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Justice	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	-

Measure Description

The measure makes two one-time General Fund appropriations to the Department of Justice (DOJ). \$18.5 million General Fund is appropriated for the purpose of backfilling reductions of the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grants and \$3 million General Fund is appropriated to be distributed to the Oregon Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Network to provide services to victims of crime.

Fiscal Analysis

The fiscal impact of the measure is a one-time \$21.5 million General Fund appropriation in the 2025-27 biennium. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that while the measure is declaring an emergency and is effective upon passage, the appropriations do not go into effect until the beginning of the July 1, 2025 biennium.

VOCA was passed by Congress and signed into law on October 12, 1984. The act is a source of federal financial support for direct services to victims of crimes. VOCA is administered at the federal level through the United States Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, which annually awards grants to each state. Each state designates an agency to administer VOCA grants and the designated agency within Oregon is DOJ, Crime Victims and Survivor Services Division (CVSSD). The purpose of the grant is to extend services to individuals who have been a victim or survivor of a crime.

While this program has been historically funded federally, DOJ saw a 42% decrease in the federal fiscal award year 2024 with notification that this reduction would be permanent moving forward. Currently, the sub-grants from VOCA support more than 140 organizations across Oregon providing direct services to victims and survivors and 5% of the grant is awarded to the agency to support administrative costs of the division.

Presuming the funding in the measure allows for the same allocation of funds, this would allow DOJ to use \$925,000 for administrative costs and the remaining \$17.6 million for distribution as grants.

Currently, DOJ has three permanent full-time Administrative Specialist 2 positions (3.00 FTE in 2025-27) who help manage the grant program and provide administrative support. The estimated costs of these three positions, including standard position-related services and supplies costs, is \$925,000 for the 2025-27 biennium. While the funding provided in the measure is one-time, positions would need to extend beyond the 2025-27 biennium to continue support and management of the grant program. No net position change is reflected, as the federally funded positions would convert to General Fund.

The measure also makes a one-time \$3 million General Fund appropriation to DOJ for the purpose of being distributed to the CASA Network. DOJ has previously received funding for these programs in HB 5202 (2022) and was given a one-time \$2.8 million General Fund appropriation to be provided as a single grant to the CASA Network. DOJ anticipates providing the whole \$3 million General Fund appropriation to the CASA Network as a single grant, as they have done in previously, for the continued support of regional service centers.

LFO also notes that the September 2024 Emergency Board approved a General Fund backfill to DOJ for the Federal Funds reduction that covered the remainder of the federal fiscal year that ends in September 2025. Part of that backfill was approved for the remainder of 2023-25, while \$1 million General Fund to backfill between the end of the biennium on June 30, 2025 and the end of the federal fiscal year in September 2025 is included in a Governor's Budget package for the 2025-27 biennium.

Relevant Dates

The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.