

HB 3196 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/20/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Andersen, Chaichi, Chotzen, Kropf, Lewis, Mannix, Tran, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$18,500,000 of General Fund to the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) to offset reductions in funding from federal Victims of Crime Act grants and appropriates \$3,000,000 of General Fund to the DOJ to fund the Oregon CASA Network.

The measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reasoning for the increase in need
- Education on consent and healthy relationships to address need
- Prevention of sexual assault cases

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment adds the specific value of appropriations to DOJ for Victims of Crime Act grants (\$18,500,000) and adds a \$3,000,000 appropriation to DOJ to fund the Oregon CASA Network.

BACKGROUND:

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) provides federal funding for victim assistance and compensation programs. VOCA grants have been reduced in recent years. The state's General Fund does not currently supplement VOCA grants funding for these programs. House Bill 3196 appropriates general funds to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to offset reductions in federal VOCA funding and includes an emergency clause for immediate implementation. Moreover, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are specially trained volunteers that the local court appoints to advocate for the best interests of children who have been traumatized by abuse or neglect. HB 3196 appropriates general funds to the DOJ to fund the Oregon CASA Network.