

SB 97 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Manning Jr

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/03/25

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-2-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Broadman, Gelser Blouin, Manning Jr, Prozanski

Nays: 2 - McLane, Thatcher

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: Abby Shearer, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/10, 2/18, 3/3

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment creates a new section of Chapter 107 for the reporting requirements and removes any changes made to ORS 107.530. It adjusts the rate that counties can charge for marriage licenses and Declarations of Domestic Partnership to \$35 over the base fee.

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.