

HB 2582 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Linthicum

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/22/25

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser Blouin, Linthicum, Nash, Prozanski, Reynolds

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/15, 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure removes the references to the National CASA Association in statute. The measure requires that statewide and local entities that coordinate and provide court appointed special advocate (CASA) services follow nationally recognized CASA standards, rather than requiring the entities to be affiliated with the National CASA Association.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Percentage of children in care that have an assigned court appointed special advocate (CASA)
- Connection with other programs to expand access to CASA and dependency attorneys
- Current status of the National CASA Association

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Court-appointed special advocates (CASA) and guardian ad litem volunteers are appointed by courts to advocate for children's interests during court proceedings. In 2017, [House Bill 2600](#) transferred and consolidated statewide coordination of CASA services in the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). In 2021, the legislature passed [House Bill 2738](#), which required 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. The Oregon CASA Network is the statewide affiliate 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's funding for its active awards and designated the National CASA Association as a DOJ high-risk grantee. DOJ has since lifted the funding freeze.