

# Senate Bill 97

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## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act makes changes to some laws about funding for family law services. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.9).

Directs county treasurers and presiding judges of judicial districts to prepare and submit certain financial reports regarding conciliation and mediation accounts. Authorizes a county governing body to increase fees for issuances of marriage licenses and registrations of Declarations of Domestic Partnership.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to funding for services in domestic relations cases; creating new provisions; amending ORS  
3 107.530 and 107.615; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 107.530 is amended to read:

6 107.530. (1) A circuit court or the circuit courts of a judicial district exercising conciliation ju-  
7 risdiction may obtain conciliation services, with the prior approval of the governing body of each  
8 county involved, by:

9 (a) Employing or contracting for counselors and other personnel; or

10 (b) Contracting or entering into agreements with public or private agencies to provide concil-  
11 iation services to the court or courts.

12 (2) Subject to the provisions of the Local Budget Law, the compensation and expenses of per-  
13 sonnel performing conciliation services for the circuit court or courts and other expenses of pro-  
14 viding conciliation services may be paid by the county or as may be agreed upon between the  
15 counties involved. Personnel performing conciliation services are not state employees, and their  
16 compensation and expenses shall not be paid by the state.

17 (3) **At least quarterly, each county treasurer shall provide to the presiding judge of the**  
18 **judicial district in which the county is located a financial report showing the balance and all**  
19 **expenditures from the county's conciliation and mediation account. The county treasurer**  
20 **may charge against the conciliation and mediation account the actual costs associated with**  
21 **providing financial reports under this subsection.**

22 (4) **Each fiscal year the presiding judge of each judicial district shall provide the State**  
23 **Court Administrator a financial report showing the fund balance and all expenditures from**  
24 **the conciliation and mediation account for the fiscal year.**

25 (5) **The State Court Administrator may prescribe the format and due dates of the reports**  
26 **required under subsections (3) and (4) of this section.**

27 **SECTION 2.** ORS 107.615 is amended to read:

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 107.615. (1) The governing body of any county may impose a fee up to [~~\$10~~] **\$50** above that  
2 prescribed in ORS 205.320 (1)(e) for issuing a marriage license or registering a Declaration of Do-  
3 mestic Partnership.

4 **(2) The governing body may periodically increase the fee in subsection (1) of this section**  
5 **to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region**  
6 **(All Items), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department**  
7 **of Labor, since the last time the fee was increased. If the governing body increases the fee**  
8 **under this subsection, the adjusted maximum fee shall be rounded to the nearest quarter**  
9 **dollar, but the unrounded amount shall be used to calculate subsequent adjustments. The**  
10 **increased fee becomes effective on July 1 following the election to increase the fee and ap-**  
11 **plies to marriage licenses issued and Declarations of Domestic Partnership registered on or**  
12 **after the effective date of the increased fee.**

13 [(2)] **(3)** In addition to any other funds used therefor, the governing body shall use the proceeds  
14 from the fee increase authorized by this section to pay the expenses of conciliation services under  
15 ORS 107.510 to 107.610 and mediation services under ORS 107.755 to 107.795. If there are none in  
16 the county, the governing body may provide conciliation and mediation services through other  
17 county agencies or may contract with a public or private agency or person to provide conciliation  
18 and mediation services.

19 [(3)] **(4)** The governing body may establish rules of eligibility for conciliation services funded  
20 under this section so long as its rules do not conflict with rules of the court adopted under ORS  
21 107.580.

22 [(4)] **(5)** Fees collected under this section shall be collected and deposited in the same manner  
23 as other county funds are collected and deposited but shall be maintained in a separate account to  
24 be used as provided in this section.

25 **SECTION 3. (1) The quarterly reports described in ORS 107.530 (3) are first due on or**  
26 **before October 31, 2025.**

27 **(2) The annual reports described in ORS 107.530 (4) are first due on or before July 31,**  
28 **2026.**

29 **SECTION 4. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
30 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect**  
31 **on its passage.**

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