

HB 2605 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/14/17

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 11-0-0-0

Yeas: 11 - Barker, Gorsek, Greenlick, Lininger, Olson, Post, Sanchez, Sprenger, Stark, Vial, Williamson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases circuit court judge positions in eight judicial districts. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Discussion of length of time to process cases through court system
- Explanation of prioritizing various cases within court system
- Explanation of need for additional judicial positions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law establishes the number of circuit court judicial positions for each of Oregon's 27 judicial districts. Circuit court judicial positions were last increased in 2005. At that time, one judge position was added to the first, fifth, sixth, and eighteenth judicial districts.

House Bill 2605 adds one additional judge position to the first, third, fourth, fifth, eleventh, fourteenth, and sixteenth judicial districts. It adds two additional judge positions to the twentieth judicial district. HB 2605 provides for nomination and election of new judges in 2017 and 2018. The new judges would assume office on the first Monday in January 2019.