

HB 2399 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes court to impose a compensatory fine as part of criminal sentence to be paid to a person injured by the act constituting the crime absent any previous civil award. Authorizes state to appeal order made prior to trial determining that defendant's out of court statement constitutes a confession requiring corroboration. Makes technical changes. Sets time limits for filing notice of cross-appeal in post-conviction relief proceedings. Specifies that the Attorney General represents a defendant on appeal from post conviction relief judgment. Amends the presumed value of property that cannot reasonably be ascertained, for purposes of a theft offense, to be less than \$100. Exempts charge of conspiracy or endeavor to commit pattern of racketeering activity from specific pleading requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Certain state's appeals in criminal cases are expedited in the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court. Not included in that list is a state's appeal from the grant of a pre-trial demurrer. House Bill 2399 corrects that scribe's error by adding a missing reference to ORS 138.261.

ORS 138.570 currently provides that the district attorney (DA) handles defense of post-conviction release (PCR) actions when the petitioner is out of custody. The Department of Justice handles all PCR actions when the petitioner is in Department of Corrections' custody or has been released on parole or conditional pardon. If the petitioner is released on post-prison supervision (PPS) the DA handles the defense of the PCR action. This can lead to inconsistent handling of PCR issues between petitioners who are on parole versus those on PPS. HB 2399 states the Department of Justice (DOJ) will assume responsibility for cases where the petitioner has been released from prison and is now on post-prison supervision (PPS).

ORS 138.625(5) effectuates a crime victim's right not to talk to representatives of the "defendant" once the case moves into the PCR stage. However, the "defendant" in the PCR stage is often the State of Oregon and the effect of the statute is that the victim does not have to talk to the State, which is not the outcome desired by the statute. HB 2399 changes references of "defense" and "defendant" to the "petitioner" to effectuate the intent of the ORS 138.625.

ORS 164.115 provides that, for purposes of the theft statutes, if the value of stolen property cannot be reasonably ascertained, it shall be presumed to be "less than \$50." The dollar value threshold for Theft III was \$50 but, that threshold has since increased to \$100. HB 2399 changes the dollar amount in ORS 164.115 from \$50 to \$100.