

HB 2244 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands funding for CourtCare programs. Requires courts to collect a surcharge on domestic relations proceedings and upon conviction for driving while under the influence of intoxicants. Places moneys collected from surcharge into CourtCare Fund. Appropriates money to the Department of Education for purposes of distributing money to counties for operation of CourtCare programs. Requires Department to establish criteria for determining whether a county receives money from CourtCare Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces measure. Expands current CourtCare pilot programs to include Jackson county. Extends pilot program from January 2, 2021 to January 2, 2023. Requires report to interim committees on child welfare no later than September 15, 2021. Allows pilot counties to apply for grants to fund program. Appropriates \$370,000 for distribution of grants to pilot counties. Establishes Task Force on CourtCare. Specifies membership. Charges task force to study and recommend a long-term funding source for statewide CourtCare programs. Requires report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly relating to child welfare no later than June 30, 2020. Directs Legislative Policy and Research Office to staff task force. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

CourtCare is a program available in some Oregon circuit courts that provides child care within courthouses. This allows parents or guardians to leave children in a safe environment without exposing them to potentially traumatic courtroom proceedings.

House Bill 2244 creates the CourtCare Fund, to be funded by surcharges in domestic relations proceedings and DUII convictions.