

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 2239

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Increases number of circuit court judges in certain judicial districts.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Judicial Department (OJD), Secretary of State (SOS), Counties

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Analysis:

Oregon Judicial Department

The Oregon Judicial Department is currently allocated 175 positions for state circuit court judges. These positions are divided by statute into 27 judicial districts across Oregon. HB 2239 adds 14 judicial positions. One judicial position is allocated to each of the following districts: Jackson County, Marion County, Clackamas County, Malheur County, Deschutes County, Klamath County, Douglas County, Linn County, Washington County and the district covering Coos and Curry Counties. Multnomah County and Lane County are each awarded two additional judicial positions.

According to the Oregon Judicial Department, these additional judicial positions are needed for districts experiencing heavy population growth, as well as to apply more judicial resources to juvenile dependency cases.

HB 2239 also creates 42 support staff positions (Judicial Support Specialist 3), beginning in October 2020, although the judicial positions will not be filled until January 2021. The fiscal impact of this bill to the Oregon Judicial Department for 2019-21 is \$4,490,570 General Fund and 56 positions (19.46 FTE). For 2021-23, the fiscal impact is \$12,301,716 General Fund and 56.00 FTE.

Secretary of State

With passage of this bill, 14 new circuit court positions would be on the ballot in November 2020. The fiscal impact for the Secretary of State is indeterminate, but likely minimal. HB 2239 would create some level of added work for the Elections Division for processing additional candidate filings, voters' pamphlet statements, and campaign finance transactions. Although the additional judicial positions would likely only add a few pages to the voter's pamphlet, it is possible that additional costs for producing and distributing the voters' pamphlet would be incurred if the additional pages necessitated a two-volume voter's pamphlet.

The Legislative Fiscal Office assumes that the Secretary of State will seek General Fund support from the Emergency Board of Legislative Assembly if the actual voter's pamphlet costs exceed currently budgeted election expenditures.

Counties

County governments run elections. County governments also provide the courthouse space used to accommodate judges and their staff. While the affected counties anticipate a minimal impact for any election

related costs, there are likely to be costs associated with providing judge's chambers and staff space for the additional FTE. These costs are indeterminate and will vary greatly among the 14 affected counties.