

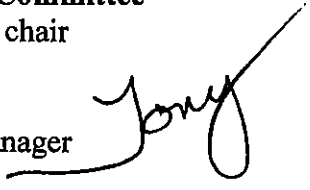
W. 4. a.

AGENDA COVER MEMORANDUM

AGENDA DATE: June 18, 2003

TO: **Board of County Commissioners**

FROM: **Lane County Legislative Committee**
Commissioner Bill Dwyer, chair
Anna Morrison, member

PRESENTED BY: Anthony S. Bieda, IGR Manager 

AGENDA TITLE: Report by Legislative Committee

1) Recommendations on legislation before the Oregon Legislative Assembly

DISCUSSION: The Board will review the progress of key initiatives moving through the Oregon Legislative Assembly. Also, it may express preferences about legislative issues based on recommendations from the Board's Legislative Committee.

ISSUE: **1) Recommendations on legislation before the Oregon Legislature** -- Based on a review by the Legislative Committee on 6.12.03, the following recommendation on legislative measures is brought forward for consideration and adoption by the full board:

HB 3638 --Specifies that requirements that counties provide services in areas of mental health, developmental disabilities, children and families, civil commitment and local public health apply **subject to availability** of funds from the state general fund. Allows counties to relinquish responsibility to state of certain kinds of services. Allows counties to provide limited services under contract for certain kinds of services, including community corrections. Directs state to defend and indemnify counties against liabilities arising out of relinquishment of responsibility or curtailed services under contract.

Analysis: *State funding has been reduced or eliminated for a number of these programs that are part of the state-county system of shared services. However, there has been no commensurate reduction in statutory direction to counties to provide these services.*

And, there is not a clear ability for counties to turn back programs that are totally funded by the state back to the state.

*In addition, the bill – introduced and supported by **the Association of Oregon Counties** – clarifies which entity is the provider of funds for services delivered. It also provides protection against the possibility that scarce county general fund resources could be used to defend litigation that arises out of state decisions.*

Recommendation: Support