

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY OREGON

RESOLUTION 99-3-17-9) IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORT OF STATE INCREASE
) IN FUNDING SHARE FOR OFFICES OF DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS

PASSED

WHEREAS; with the passage of legislation and ballot measures creating new criminal offenses and enhancing criminal penalties, and with increases in the number and severity of juvenile crimes, the workload of district attorneys has grown significantly in recent years; and

WHEREAS; over the same period of time, the capacity of counties to fund the rising workload of district attorneys has eroded with passage of property tax limitation measures and large declines in federal forest receipts; and

WHEREAS; district attorneys throughout Oregon have expressed an urgent need for more deputy district attorneys, more support staff, and more resources to deal with juvenile crime; and

WHEREAS; district attorneys are state officials whose primary duty is the prosecution of crimes created by state law; and.

WHEREAS; as far back as 1959, the Interim Committee on Judicial Administration recommended that the state increase its contribution to the costs of those offices, and in 1974 the Governor's Commission on Judicial Reform concurred; yet since 1974, the state's funding share has declined by about half; and

WHEREAS; counties on average bear about 80% of the prosecution costs of district attorneys offices while also shouldering responsibility for jails, juvenile detention and treatment, sheriff's patrol, state court facilities and local corrections; and

WHEREAS; there is a need to enhance the ability of district attorneys offices to prosecute crimes while assuring adequate capacity in the rest of the local public safety system to respond to those crimes; and

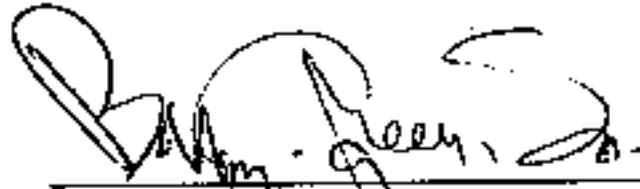
WHEREAS; counties are no longer able to fund those prosecution and system responses without greater participation from the state; and

WHEREAS; the Oregon District Attorneys Association and the Association of Oregon Counties have recommended that the state increase its funding commitment to the offices of district attorneys by \$20 million with 30% of those funds to be used directly for prosecution enhancement. and 70% to be used for vital service needs that are of the highest local priority including, but not limited to, sheriff's patrol, jail operations, and juvenile detention and treatment.

In the Matter of Support of State Increase in Funding Share for Offices of District Attorneys
ca/mi/orders/99007/T

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Lane County Board of Commissioners' recommends that the Oregon Legislative Assembly increase the state share of funding for the offices of district attorneys by the sum of \$20 million for the 1999-2001 biennium.

Dated this 17th day of March, 1999.



Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners