

SB 306 Vote Explanation. The bill's intent to help citizens who are pro se with family court cases by allowing less expensive paralegals to assist with basic advice and forms is good. The question is effectiveness and committee testimony. Apparently, there already exists a family law facilitator in 34 of 36 counties within the Judicial Branch. We reviewed this program online. There was nothing of this existing resource in the staff measure summary. The existing court program should be enhanced before turning to a for profit solution. Further, buried in SB 306 is a definitional change to attorney client privilege. This privilege is the most abused legal procedure in the practice of law. Worse, the SB 306 privilege change on page 13 of the bill is undefined. And the change is littered across the bill. As a pro se, given corruption in the system, this across-the-the board privilege change is not only unacceptable, but its expanded use in government could easily amount to official misconduct. Oregon needs a better way to assist self-represented citizens against lawyers in the courtroom.