FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2012 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description: Establishes Task Force on STEM Access and Success to encourage students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Legislative Administration Committee, Department of Education, Department of Community Colleges & Workforce Development (CCWD), Oregon University System (OUS), Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC)

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

HB 4056 establishes a 16-member Task Force on STEM Access and Success to develop strategies to encourage students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The task force is required to submit a report that may include recommendations for legislation to the interim legislative committee on education, by October 1, 2012. The task force sunsets on the date of the convening of 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly.

HB 4056 is anticipated to have minimal fiscal impact on the Legislative Administration Committee, the Department of Education, the Department of Community Colleges & Workforce Development (CCWD), Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC), and the Oregon University System (OUS).

In addition to four legislators, members of the task force include individuals who represent the following agencies: (1) the Department of Education; (4) Department of Community Colleges & Workforce Development; and (5) Oregon University System. This fiscal assumes that membership on the task force will have minimal impact on these agencies, and that any resulting work can be absorbed with existing resources. Each agency will have to reprioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff to allow participation on the task force. All members of the task force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to per diem or reimbursements.

The Legislative Administration Committee is required to provide staff support to the task force. The Legislative Assembly budget contains some funding for staffing and production of reports for interim committees. However, if the cumulative effect of the enactment of other bills exceeds expenditure levels assumed in the Legislative Administration's budget, Legislative Administration may need to seek additional resources.

The bill establishes a STEM Fund to be continuously appropriated to OSAC for the purpose of providing scholarships to students to encourage study in Science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The bill allows the task force to accept grants, donations, contributions or gifts from ay source for deposit in the STEM Fund. At this time, no source for donations has been identified. If funded, OSAC will use existing staff and resources to administer the STEM Fund.

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