

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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| <b>Action:</b>        | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means |
| <b>Vote:</b>          | 9 - 0 - 0  |
| <b>Yeas:</b>          | Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Krummel, Lim, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley   |
| <b>Nays:</b>          | 0  |
| <b>Exc.:</b>          | 0  |
| <b>Prepared By:</b>   | Derrick Olsen, Administrator   |
| <b>Meeting Dates:</b> | 3/09   |

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) to establish programs to provide mentoring and resources that help students access education and training beyond high school. Establishes Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone (ASPIRE) Program Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to commission for program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Experience of ASPIRE counseling students on obtaining post-secondary financial aid
- Purpose of amendment and issue of fiscal impact or no fiscal impact
- Joint Ways and Means Committee referral and recommendation for rescinding referral
- OSAC budget and performance measures
- Expansion of ASPIRE
- Volunteer and foundation support for ASPIRE

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** The amendment deletes language placing appropriated funds in the ASPIRE Program Fund, but would continue to allow money from donations and grants to be placed in the fund. Ways and Means philosophically opposes state agencies placing appropriated money in special accounts that draw interest to the agency rather than the general treasury and suggested this amendment. HB 2729 had a subsequent referral to the Joint Ways and Means Committee, but after reviewing HB 2729 and the OSAC budget (HB 5044), the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) suggested that the Committee recommend rescinding the subsequent referral since LFO considers ASPIRE an existing program and with this amendment HB 2729 has no fiscal impact. The Committee requested and received approval from the Speaker to rescind the subsequent referral.

**BACKGROUND:** Started in 1998, ASPIRE is an OSAC program funded by foundations and grants that is geared to boost the number of high school students who attend post-secondary education through an increase in the number of Oregon students seeking and receiving scholarships and financial aid. ASPIRE has partnered with AmeriCorps, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Ford Family Foundation, Oregon Gear Up, the Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Mentors, and the National College Access Network.

ASPIRE's objectives are helping high schools recruit volunteer mentors, training those volunteers to provide mentoring to help secondary students access education and training beyond high school, and educating students and families about financial aid options. The Governor's budget proposes \$1.4 million for ASPIRE, which according to OSAC would enable expansion from the current level of 84 schools and 39,450 students in 2005-07 to an estimated 150 school and 71, 250 students in 2007-09. A corresponding expansion in the number of volunteers from 1,144 in 2005-07 to 1,930 in 2007-09 is also expected.

3/13/2007 11:11:00 AM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*