

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Edwards C., Girod, Thatcher, Riley
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service to identify goals related to development and facilitation of public and private programs for encouraging and rewarding citizen volunteerism and participation. Authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Services to adopt rules and develop procedures to foster programs that fulfill commission goals. Expands the purposes for which the commission may seek grants, contributions and assistance. Directs the commission to submit biennial reports and recommendations to the Governor and Legislative Assembly. Declares an emergency and takes effect upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Types of organizations that interact with Oregon Volunteers
- Reason for emergency clause
- Budget and funding sources for Oregon Volunteers
- Effect of legislative policy statement on volunteerism
- Method by which volunteerism is measured

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service, also known as Oregon Volunteers, was formed in 1994 and is comprised of 25 members appointed by the Governor. The commission is nonpartisan and is charged with promoting and supporting volunteerism and civic involvement in Oregon. Oregon Volunteers has been part of the Department of Housing and Community Services since 2001, having previously been part of the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.

In 2001, the Legislative Assembly made Oregon Volunteers responsible for Oregon Shines Benchmark 30, which measures the percentage of adult Oregonians who have volunteered time to civic, community, or nonprofit activities during the previous 12 months. While Oregon's volunteerism rate is higher than the national average, it has decreased from a high of 65 percent to its current level of 52 percent.

Senate Bill 60 is a policy statement of intent from the Legislative Assembly in support of volunteerism. The measure authorizes Oregon Volunteers to pursue programs and activities that encourage and reward volunteerism and to provide assistance for the establishment and implementation of volunteer programs. The measure also requires the commission to submit a report every two years to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor regarding its activities in advancing volunteerism.

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