

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/17, 1/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Promotes the development of better communities through civic participation and volunteerism. Authorizes the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service to identify goals which encourage private and public programs to utilize volunteers and the Housing and Community Services Department to develop rules and procedures to foster the initiation of such programs. Requires the commission to submit a biennial report which details commission activities, assesses the state of volunteerism in Oregon, and makes recommendations. Expands purposes for which the commission can apply for and accept grants, contributions and assistance.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Work done by volunteers across the state
- How similar legislation has worked in other states
- Legislative support of volunteerism

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service (Oregon Volunteers) was founded in 1994 to promote and support volunteerism and civic engagement throughout Oregon and has been housed within the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department since 2001. In 2001, The Oregon Legislature gave Oregon Volunteers responsibility for Oregon Shines Benchmark 30, the percentage of Oregon adults who volunteer time to civic, community or nonprofit activities in the last 12 months. While rates of volunteering in Oregon are higher than the national average, volunteering in Oregon has slowly declined since 1992. The measure would serve as a statement from the Legislature in support of volunteerism. The changes proposed by SB 60 mirror legislative changes adopted in Florida and Massachusetts.