

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 6 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Atkinson, Avakian, Metsger, Morse, Courtney, Monroe
Nays: 0
Exc.: Winters
Prepared By: Marjorie Taylor, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases membership of the Emergency Board from 17 to 20 members. Provides that the board consists of 10 members of the House and 10 members of the Senate. Provides that a quorum for action of the Emergency Board is a majority of House members and majority of Senate members. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current membership of the Emergency Board
- Current quorum and vote requirements
- Actions taken by the Emergency Board during interim
- Integration of policy committee members onto Ways and Means committees
- Requirement of Ways and Means experience to be a member of the Emergency Board

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Article 3, section 3 of the Oregon Constitution authorizes the Legislative Assembly to establish a joint committee composed of members of both houses to, when an emergency exists, allocate additional funds to any state agency; authorize any state agency to expend in excess of the amount of the approved agency budget; approve a use of funds appropriated for a new activity; or revise or amend budgets authorizing transfers between expenditure classifications within an agency budget. ORS 291.326 establishes the powers of the Emergency Board and prohibits allocation, authorization or approval of actions unless at least 10 members of the board are present at the meeting.

Currently, the 17 members of the Emergency Board are:

- The President of the Senate;
- The Speaker of the House;
- Chairpersons of the Senate and House Ways and Means Committees;
- Six other members of the Senate - four with previous experience on Ways and Means; and
- Seven other members of the House - four with previous experience on Ways and Means.

Members are appointed by the President and Speaker and confirmed by a majority of members of their respective houses.

Senate Bill 371 increases membership on the Emergency Board by one House member and two Senate members. The measure also sets a quorum of the board to be a majority of members from the House and a majority of members from the Senate – at least 12 members. Under the measure board action requires the affirmative vote of a majority of members from each house.

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