74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session MEASURE: SB 378 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Sen. Walker

**Senate Committee on Education & General Government** 

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Kruse, Morse, Westlund, Walker

Nays: 0 Exc.: Metsger

**Prepared By:** Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) as special government body. Removes OHSU exemption from laws enacted after January 1, 1995 unless specifically named. Exempts OHSU from statutes enacted after January 1, 1995 and before January 1, 2008 unless specifically named. Applies statutes governing public bodies generally and enacted after January 1, 2008 to OHSU unless specifically exempted. Applies laws enacted after January 1, 2008 pertaining to all government entities generally and describing such entities by specific reference to defined public bodies to OHSU. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

## **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Statutory treatment of State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) as public body or special government body
- Statutory categories of public and private bodies
- OHSU review of all statutes enacted

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Exempts OHSU from statutes enacted after January 1, 1995 and before January 1, 2008 unless specifically named. Applies statutes governing public bodies generally and enacted after January 1, 2008 to OHSU unless specifically exempted. Applies laws enacted after January 1, 2008 pertaining to all government entities generally and describing such entities by specific reference to defined public bodies to OHSU.

**BACKGROUND:** In June 1995 the state approved Senate Bill 2, making OHSU a public corporation. SB 2 gave OHSU a streamlined governance structure that allowed it to make independent programmatic and business decisions. In practice, this means OHSU operates more like a business and less like a state agency, answerable to its own board of directors (rather than the State Board of Higher Education) with fiduciary responsibility for its own actions. Although it remains a public body, OHSU has been exempted from some of the restrictions that adhere to other public entities and state agencies. For example, OHSU is not subject to most of the state's competitive bidding requirements. Many of the public accountability laws such as public records and public meetings laws still apply to OHSU, but are modified in various ways to accommodate the original intent of SB 2 to allow OHSU to compete in the health care marketplace.