

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/21, 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Oregon Innovation Council to establish two “signature research centers:” one for development of bio-economy and sustainable technology or services, and another center for drug development and commercialization. Authorizes the council to contract with private, not-for profit companies for administration of the centers. Specifies that both centers are to maximize collaborative ventures among research institutions, the federal government, and private industry. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Oregon Innovation Council and their project selection process
- Returns on investment
- Appropriate role of government and private sector
- Model of the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute
- Rural Oregon connection
- Intent of centers to become self-sufficient over time
- Importance of joint facilities and key faculty/researchers
- Examples of projects

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Innovation Council was established by the 2005 Legislative Assembly (SB 838) to act as an advisory board on innovation and research competitiveness. The same legislation allocated \$7 million for the creation of a signature research center, the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnology Institute (ONAMI). The emphasis of the center is moving technologies from basic university and private research to commercialization. By partnering with private and other public sponsors ONAMI has helped establish the Center for Advanced Materials Characterization at the University of Oregon, the Center for Electron Microscopy and Nanofabrication at Portland State University, and the Microproducts Breakthrough Institute at Oregon State University.

The Oregon Innovation Council has recommended two additional research centers: (1) the Bio-Economy and Sustainable Technologies (BEST) Center to develop innovations in bio-based products, green buildings, and clean energy; and (2) the Translational Research and Drug Development Institute (OTRADI) for infectious disease research.

SB 580 would establish these two new centers, but the state funding for the centers is part of the appropriation in another bill (SB 581). The requested appropriation for the BEST Center is \$3 million, with additional funds anticipated from private foundations, government grants, and industry. The funding will support key faculty in related fields and the funding of research and separate development sites and projects leading toward commercial applications. The requested appropriation for OTRADI is \$7 million for a screening facility using international libraries of biologically active compounds for infectious disease targets and to promote those with commercial potential with pre-clinical trials. Licensing revenues and royalties are anticipated to accrue to institutions participating in both centers over time.

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