

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

Vote: 7 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Jenson, Read, Roblan

Nays: 0

Exc.: Nolan

Prepared By: Jerry Watson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/25, 4/13, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Department of Administrative Services to develop and make available the "Open Books Oregon" website to allow any person to view information that is a public record not exempt from disclosure. Creates a 9-member Open Books Oregon Advisory Commission, establishes mechanism for appointing members of the advisory commission, and sets forth operating procedures for the advisory commission. Requires state agencies to furnish certain information to the Open Books Oregon website by posting reports and providing links to existing information in format and manner required by Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Requires website to contain the following information on each state agency, when practicable and capable of being provided without additional cost: (a) annual state agency revenues, (b) expenditures, (c) human resources expenses, (4) tax expenditures, (5) contracting and subcontracting information, (6) a graphic representation of primary funding categories and approximate number of individuals served by the agency, (7) a description of the mission, functions, and program categories of the state agency, (8) agency information from the Oregon Progress Board, and (9) a copy of any audit report issued by the Secretary of State for the state agency. Exempts State Treasurer. Requires Oregon Department of Administrative Services and Open Books Oregon Advisory Commission, when creating and operating the Open Books Oregon website, to consider and adhere to principles of accessibility without cost, ease of use, easily understandable language, and educating users on how state government works and how state government raises and spends revenue. Requires biennial report to Legislative Assembly containing specified information. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Public access to public information
- The impact of "transparency" on public trust and confidence in government
- Types of information and the fiscal impact of information to be included on website
- Additional types of information that may be added to website in the future
- Definition of "state agency"

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: States across the country and even the federal government are creating searchable Internet sites that allow people to see detailed records of how their tax dollars are spent. Proponents of searchable internet sites containing government expenditures assert that taxpayers deserve to know how their money is used and that access to such information increases the transparency and accountability of government. According to proponents, thirteen states have launched such websites since 2007 through legislative or gubernatorial action. Additional websites have been created by other state constitutional officers in 10 states. Website legislation has also been passed in other states, but not yet implemented. Significant differences exist in terms of the kinds of information available on such websites.

4/23/2009 2:31:00 PM

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