

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Burdick, Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin

Nays: -

Exc.: Atkinson

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to develop and make available a State of Oregon transparency website for the purpose of reviewing state financial information that is a public record, not exempt from disclosure. Requires state agencies to provide certain information for the website by posting reports and providing links to existing information in format and manner required by DAS. Specifies the revenue and expenditure, audit, and agency program information that each state agency, when practicable and without reallocation of current resources, is to make available for review on the website. Exempts State Treasurer. Creates a nine-member Advisory Commission. Specifies the Commission's composition, duties, and objectives. Requires DAS and the Commission, when creating and operating the 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 the Legislative Assembly containing specified information. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increasing government transparency by providing usable state agency financial data
- Maximizing capacity of website using existing resources
- Long-term vision for website and potential for expansion
- Improving the public's access to state financial information
- Reason for change the name of the website

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes "the Open Books Oregon" as the website title. Instructs the Department of Administrative Services to develop a transparency website for the State of Oregon.

BACKGROUND: The federal government and multiple states have or are creating searchable Internet sites that allow people to see detailed records of how their tax dollars are spent. The increase in the number of searchable internet sites that aggregate a state's financial and performance data has occurred because of an increase in taxpayer's awareness and need to understand how the government spends its revenues.

Currently, 12 states have operational websites for posting state spending, six states post the financial information of selected departments and seven more states have recently passed laws to create online spending websites. The information included on the websites varies significantly amongst the states, in part because of the variations in public records statutes.