

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
<b>Vote:</b>	10 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Lisa Nuss, Counsel
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/30

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Modifies and clarifies membership and duties of the Oregon Law Commission: Adds two members from the judiciary; increases terms from two to four years; provides that the Senate and House appointments must be one current member and one current or former member; allows legislators who are not commission members to receive expenses for commission work groups; clarifies Legislative Counsel's provision of drafting assistance, as legislative priorities permit; and, allows commission to set meeting schedule, instead of having to meet quarterly. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Work of the commission
- Term length and the need for balance between experienced and new members

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Law Commission was created in 1997 by the Legislative Assembly to conduct a continuous program of law reform. The commission currently comprises 13 members:

- Two members appointed by the Senate, one who is a Senator at time of appointment
- Two members appointed by the House, one who is a Representative at time of appointment
- The three accredited law school deans, or designees
- Three members appointed by the Oregon State Bar
- The Attorney General, or designee
- The Supreme Court Chief Justice, or designee
- One member appointed by the Governor

The commission's enabling statutes have not been amended since its creation, and much of this bill works to update and clarify evolving practices. The addition of two judges addresses the commission's need for members with experience in the many trial court issues that are raised. The reduction in Legislative Counsel (LC) duties clarifies practice that while LC advises and provides drafting assistance in many areas, much of the general staffing work is performed by the commission staff, who are employed by Willamette University.