

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 5 - 1 - 2
Yeas: Freeman, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
Nays: Barnhart
Exc.: Berger, Garrett
Prepared By: Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/28, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Upon approval by voters in the 2012 general election, changes terminology in the Oregon Constitution from Legislative “Department” to Legislative “Branch”, Executive “Department” to Executive “Branch”, and Judicial “Department” to Judicial “Branch.” Makes related terminology changes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Correction of Constitutional errors
- Simple language clarifications; terminology “department” and “branch”
- Meaning of the term “branch” and implication of equality among branches
- Confusion between Judicial Department and Department of Justice
- “Single subject” concern for amending the Oregon Constitution

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: House Joint Resolution 44 is limited to changes in terminology, intended to bring language in the Oregon Constitution into agreement with current usage. The proposed changes make Oregon Constitution terminology consistent with what is taught in most modern-day civics and American government classes. The “department” language of the Oregon Constitution pre-dates the American Civil War.