

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Dembrow
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Girod

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 24 – 1 – 0

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Garrard, Komp, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Richardson,
G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays: Freeman

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Monica Brown, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 10, 2011

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates Oregon Employer Workforce Training Program and Oregon Youth Employment Program in Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD), subject to availability of funds. Charges local workforce investment boards with local management of programs created. Requires private sector funding equal to State funding for the Oregon Employer Workforce Training Fund. Establishes the Oregon Employer Workforce Training Fund and the Oregon Youth Employment Fund in the State Treasury.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Programs are subject to available funding.
- No state funds are provided within this measure.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon WorkSource Centers served over 350,000 Oregonians last year. When dislocated workers return to the workforce, necessary job skills may be changed due to new technologies, new processes and procedures and different staffing patterns. The measure's goals are to assure that businesses have a skilled workforce and to provide unemployed Oregonians with the training to complete for jobs created by Oregon companies. Oregon Workforce Partnership proposes programs based on proven scalable models.

The Youth Employment Program provides work experience and develops readiness skills. Studies prove that jobless youth face lower life-long earnings, experience higher incidences of behavior issues and have difficulty getting ahead in their careers. A 2009 pilot program funded with \$15 million in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act resources put 4,000 Oregon youth to work, bringing a return of \$1.46 per dollar invested back to their communities. A Department of Human Services program serving teen parents brought similar results.

Employer Workforce Training Fund is a federally funded model, with local companies matching grants to leverage training dollars to address current worker needs and increase business competitiveness. Federal funding allowed Oregon to test this program over seven years, and it was well received by business. Senate Bill 175-A creates the Youth Employment Program and the Employer Workforce Training Fund. Though the measure does not appropriate funding, it puts forward foundational statutes to assist in obtaining federal and business funds.