

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum
Nays: 0
Exc.: Atkinson
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Legislative Assembly to maintain reports of legislative committee witnesses and post reports on legislative website.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increasing legislative transparency
- Incorporating new technology to improve public participation
- Implementation options
- Open meeting laws

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendments.

BACKGROUND: ORS 171.200 directs the Legislative Administrator to distribute publications of bills, resolutions and memorials and their amendments; reports of statutory, standing, special or interim legislative committees; periodic legislative calendars; periodic journals; and additional documents or papers printed for either chamber of the Legislative Assembly.

Currently, if an individual is seeking information regarding legislative committee witnesses for a measure or issue being considered by a legislative committee, they may request a recording log from the Legislative Administration Committee Services office. The contents of the recording log created for Legislative Committee meetings is specified in House and Senate Chamber rules and includes the following information: members present, excused or absent; all motions and their disposition; results of all votes; and names and identification for all individuals providing public testimony on a legislative measure or issue. The recording logs are not available on the Legislative Administration Committee Services webpage and are not required, by ORS 171.200, to be distributed by the Legislative Administrator.

Senate Bill 739 would add reports of witness who appear before legislative committees to the list of publications required to be distributed by the Legislative Administrator and would require the reports to be posted on the legislative website.