

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carriers – House: Rep. Dembrow
Rep. Johnson
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Edwards

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 21 – 2 – 2

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Read, Richardson, G. Smith, Whisnant

Nays: Cowan, Thatcher

Exc:

Senate

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

Nays:

Exc: Verger, Winters

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 29, 2012

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Special Committee on University Governance to review issues of governance within the higher education system and coordination among elements of that system with other education programs and missions. Specifies task force membership and requires report to the Legislative Assembly and Governor no later than November 1, 2012. Sunsets upon convening of 2013 Legislative Session. Declares emergency; effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Composition of special committee
- Prejudgment regarding desirability of local governing boards
- National experts willing to work pro-bono with the special committee

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Requires the Special Committee to consult with all seven presidents of Oregon’s public universities in identifying the potential impacts of local boards upon other public universities, and in developing a detailed plan to address those impacts.

BACKGROUND: Although Senate Bill 242 (2011) redefined the Oregon University System (OUS) as a public university system with greater authority and independence to manage affairs, operations and obligations, some in the higher education community would like the establishment of independent boards at state institutions. House Bill 4061-A creates the Task Force on Higher Education Governance and Coordination to study the issue and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than November 1, 2012. In addition, the measure specifies that the Task Force will be composed of four Senators, four Representatives and two members of the Oregon Education Investment Board.