

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carriers – House: Rep. Tomei
Rep. Olson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Carrier – Senate: Sen. Bates

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 24 – 0 – 1

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

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

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

Nays:

Exc: Winters

Prepared By: Doug Wilson, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 27, 2012

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes a program under the Oregon State Police for tobacco use enforcement focusing on those under 18 years of age. Permits the employment of retired state police officers to enforce tobacco laws under the program. Establishes the State Police Tobacco Law Enforcement Fund. Authorizes the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to apply for public and private moneys to pay for the costs of the program. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- OHA has identified \$201,000 of Tobacco Use Reduction Account (TURA) funding for the program and there is also likely federal funding available
- Agency will return to the Emergency Board or Legislature once amount of available funding is determined
- Need to improve the track record of underage smoking/purchasing or risk losing federal funds

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Law enforcement agencies are in a difficult position, having to prioritize resources as efficiently as possible in difficult economic circumstances, and enforcement of tobacco laws is diminished alongside other important public safety issues that need attention. According to statistics offered by the American Lung Association, where tobacco use is concerned, Oregon's teens may be backsliding and smoking more instead of less, compared to the national trend. House Bill 4172A establishes a fund for receipt of potential federal grant monies, which are conditioned on being used to enforce laws that discourage tobacco use by minors.