

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Edwards, Girod, Monroe, Starr, Thomsen
Nays: 0
Exc.: Beyer
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/12, 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Secretary of State to conduct annual financial review of moneys collected, borrowed, received and expended by Travel Information Council. Provides that Secretary of State may contract with an independent certified public accountant to conduct the review, or accept a financial review conducted by an independent certified public accountant.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Travel Information Council and Oregon Travel Experience
- Measure requested by agency

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon Travel Experience (OTE) was created by the Legislative Assembly in 1972 and is a semi-independent state agency that connects motorists with businesses through highway signs, rest area information kiosks, business listings on www.tripcheck.com and on the Statewide Interactive Heritage Map. The nine-member Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC) serves as OTE's governing board. The Council is composed of ten members appointed by the Governor, plus one member representing the Oregon Transportation Commission.

In 2010, OTE assumed management of nine rest areas in five Oregon locations along Interstate 5 and Interstate 84. Senate Bill 1591 (2012) increased the number of rest areas over which OTE has management responsibility; the Oregon Department of Transportation maintains ownership of these rest areas, with OTE managing the rest areas through intergovernmental agreement. The 2012 measure also granted OTE the authority to erect and repair structures and to acquire and sell real property and transferred State Highway Trust Funds to OTC for management, maintenance, improvement and development of the rest areas.

Senate Bill 276 directs that the Audits Division of the Office of Secretary of State conduct an annual financial review of the moneys collected, borrowed, received and expended by Oregon Travel Experience under the direction of the Oregon Travel Information Council.