77th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2013 Regular Session MEASURE: SB 520 A

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Sen. Baertschiger

Senate Committee on General Gov't, Consumer & Small Business Protection

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact **FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Baertschiger, George, Monnes Anderson, Shields

Nays: 0

Exc.: Prozanski

**Prepared By:** Channa Newell, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/20, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prescribes changes to Oregon Credit Union Act. Allows credit unions operating in Oregon to have same powers and authorities offered to federal credit unions or credit unions chartered under laws of another state. Requires credit union notify Department of Consumer and Business Services of intention to exercise parity powers at least 45 days before exercising such powers. Requires notice include description of power and statutory, regulatory, or other legal basis for use of federal credit union power. Clarifies role and function of supervisory committees and role of board of directors. Raises cap on aggregate loan amount to one borrower from the greater of \$15,000 or 15 percent of credit union's equity to \$100,000 or 15 percent of credit union's equity. Allows board to delegate declaration of dividends without board approval. Provides protection from personal liability to director or officer who uses good faith or due care to form reasonable belief for actions in the best interest of credit union or who reasonably relies upon expert or competent and reliable outside opinions.

## **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Proposed updates every two years to Oregon Credit Union Act
- Changing financial landscape and member needs
- Structure and value of credit unions
- Technical improvements to Oregon Credit Union Act
- Federal parity provisions and findings by Department of Consumer and Business Services

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Clarifies that Oregon credit unions may exercise powers and authorities available to federal credit union, but requires credit union notify Department of Consumer and Business Services of intentions at least 45 days before exercising such powers. Requires notice include description of power and statutory, regulatory, or other legal basis for use of federal credit union power.

**BACKGROUND:** Credit unions chartered in Oregon are formed under the Oregon Credit Union Act, ORS Chapter 723, and are chartered and examined by Department of Consumer and Business Services, Division of Finance and Corporate Securities. Federally chartered credit unions are formed under the National Credit Union Administration. Nearly 1.4 million Oregonians are members of a credit union; of those, 115,000 belong to credit unions that are not chartered in Oregon.

Senate Bill 520-A provides greater flexibility to Oregon-chartered credit unions by allowing them the same authorities and powers bestowed on federally-chartered credit unions as long as they provide notice to the Department that they intend to exercise such powers. The measure also provides several technical and clarifying changes to the Oregon Credit Union Act.