

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Joint Ways and Means
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Davis, Frederick, Holvey, Thatcher, Unger, Clem
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Cameron
Prepared By:	Lynn Beaton, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/7, 4/4, 4/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Portland State University Population Research Center (Center) to issue population forecasts for all Oregon counties, except for portions of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties that are within Metro, to be used for land use planning. Requires Center issue population forecasts for every county not less than once every four years on schedule established by rule of State Board of Higher Education adopted in consultation with Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). Dictates requirements of notice that Center must issue to affected local governments and members of public when gathering data and before issuing final forecasts. Specifies process for local government and members of public to file objections with Center concerning forecasts. Allows DLCD periodically to require Center submit forecasting methodology and data collection practices for review by advisory committee. Clarifies that issuance of final population forecast is not land use decision. Requires Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to allocate from grant funding an amount sufficient to operate forecasting program. Requires Center to issue first complete set of population forecasts within four years after effective date of Act and then phase in production of all required forecasts. Allows local governments which initiated periodic review or other legislative review of comprehensive plan on or before date Center issues related final population forecast to continue review under population forecast satisfying previous statutes. Requires DLCD adopt rules for transitioning existing population forecasting process to new forecasting process required by Act. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Methods for completing populations forecasts
- Role of Portland State University’s Population Research Center
- Population forecasts and expansion of urban growth boundaries

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: Current Oregon statute requires each county to establish and maintain a population forecast for use in maintaining and updating comprehensive plans, and requires each county to coordinate the forecast with the local governments within county boundaries. However, many counties have either not adopted a coordinated population forecast or have not provided timely updates. Current trends indicate that there are growing numbers of cities that find it necessary to begin a UGB update as land supplies diminish, requiring fresh forecasts.

In 2011, a group of stakeholders was convened to explore legislative concepts that would resolve the longstanding problems with population forecasting. The effort was facilitated by Portland State University (PSU), which gathered information and ideas, conducted research, and developed a concept framework. The stakeholder group recommended reassigning forecasting responsibilities from counties to a neutral third party, the Population Research Center (Center) at PSU. The Center would provide fresh 50-year forecasts to cities every four years—incorporating new policy changes or decisions that may support population growth and would affect a city’s forecast. House Bill 2253 A would require a localized process, with multiple opportunities for input from cities, counties and citizens, and provide flexibility for cities to decide when they should begin to use the new forecasts. Complex areas, such as shared urban growth boundaries or cities that include portions of more than one county, will be forecasted at the same time.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.