

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

---

Action: Do Pass  
Vote: 8 - 0 - 1  
Yeas: Barnhart, Berger, Hicks, Holvey, Hoyle, Jenson, Kennemer, Garrett  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: Dembrow  
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator  
Meeting Dates: 4/17, 4/29

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Commission on Black Affairs, Commission on Women, and Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs to meet at least annually in joint session to consider and act on issues of mutual concern.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Statutory limitations of advocacy commissions to formally meet and adopt recommendations
- Common goals amongst Oregon Advocacy Commissions
- Limited resources available to Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
- Importance of collaboration amongst Oregon Advocacy Commissions
- Frequency of meetings
- Ability to take official action

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office (OACO) is established under ORS 185.005 to ORS 185.025 to provide administrative support to: The Oregon Commission on Asian Affairs (OCAA); The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA); The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA); and The Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW).

The OACO chief responsibility is supporting the statutory advocacy missions of the four Commissions (each with nine Governor appointed Commissioners and two legislators) aimed at improving the economic, social, legal, and political equality of Oregon’s Asian, Black, and Hispanic communities and for Oregon women. Historically, this has included monitoring programs and legislation, identifying and researching issues, maintaining a liaison with constituent communities, growing constituent representation in leadership positions, and recommending action to policy makers and the Governor on key issues facing their constituents. Issues considered by the OACO and four Commissions in 2009-11 biennium included healthcare, mental health, domestic violence, voter registration, poverty, education disparities, child care, racism, discrimination, workforce participation, wage equality, profiling, justice and civil rights.

In 2010, the individual commissions identified the issues challenging their constituent communities. They presented the OACO long term plan that identified each commissions’ five-year strategic priorities and goals focusing on the improving equity, growing constituent community leadership, studying issues and best practices, and informing legislation and public policy. Currently, the four advocacy commissions share an executive director and budget, and have an informal practice of meeting jointly to discuss shared goals, issues, and solutions. However, the four commissions do not have the statutory authority to meet in a formal joint session and adopt formal goals, strategies, and solutions. House Bill 2328 would require OCAA, OCBA, OCHA, and OCFW to meet in joint session.

4/30/2013 3:01:00 PM

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