

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure (Printed B-Engrossed) and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Baertschiger, Burdick, Close, Prozanski, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Racquel Rancier, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes legislative findings in regard to public infrastructure including need for innovation in design, financing and asset management; establishing center of expertise; and establishing western states as marketplace for innovative infrastructure financing. Creates Oregon Innovation in Infrastructure Task Force to make recommendations to Legislative Assembly regarding: participation in West Coast infrastructure exchange to assess existing infrastructure and establish West Coast marketplace for innovation; strategies for establishing center of expertise for innovative practices; methods to maximize value of public infrastructure expenditures; responsibilities of center of expertise to improve infrastructure systems; and data platform for infrastructure projects. Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services and State Treasurer to provide staff support. Requires task force to report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2013. Sunsets task force on June 30, 2014. Modifies and adds activities funded by Marine Navigation Improvement Fund (Fund) and reprioritizes projects to receive funding assistance. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current state of Oregon’s infrastructure and need for financial resources
- Collaboration with other states to develop marketplace for best practices
- Need to identify and implement changes to facilitate private investment
- Partnerships British Columbia as an example of successful infrastructure innovation and private investment
- Lack of federal funding to dredge small coastal ports and negotiations with Army Corps of Engineers for state to provide funding assistance

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Changes task force report date to no later than December 31, 2013. Modifies legislative findings regarding purpose of specified statutes for financing dredging activities. Modifies and adds activities funded by Marine Navigation Improvement Fund and reprioritizes assistance as follows: study and construction costs of maintenance projects related to existing federally authorized navigation improvement projects (Federal Projects); study and construction costs of navigation improvement projects that directly support or provide access to Federal Projects; construction costs for dredging new Federal Projects. Authorizes Infrastructure Finance Authority to develop criteria for funding maintenance projects.

BACKGROUND: The 2010 American Society of Civil Engineers Oregon Infrastructure Report Card gave Oregon’s infrastructure a C-. In 2012, Oregon in conjunction with California, Washington and British Columbia formed the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange to identify new methods to finance and facilitate infrastructure development. Currently, the exchange is a non-profit organization with coordination provided by the Oregon State Treasury and financial support provided by the Rockefeller Foundation. House Bill 2345 B establishes the Oregon Innovation in Infrastructure Task Force to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding innovative practices related to public infrastructure including participation in the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange.

The federal government has in the past funded dredging and maintenance activities for Oregon’s small coastal ports but no longer has the resources to do so. Oregon has an existing Fund for certain navigation infrastructure projects. House Bill 2345 B modifies the types and priority of projects eligible under the Fund.

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