

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Read
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Hansell

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the B-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 25 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: Hanna

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Kim To, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 21, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes the ten-member Oregon Innovation in Infrastructure Task Force charged with making recommendations to the Legislature regarding participation in a west coast infrastructure exchange partnering with innovators in other states and regions on the west coast to evaluate the status of existing infrastructures and to develop and implement critical infrastructure projects, including but not limited to projects involving energy transmission and efficiency, water storage capacity, municipal water systems and wastewater management. The task force is required to submit a report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2013. The bill sunsets on June 30, 2014. The bill contains an emergency clause, and takes effect on passage.

In addition, the bill adds language providing that monies in the Marine Navigation Improvement Fund (MNIF) may be used to fund construction costs of dredging activities, and studies of maintenance projects related to existing federally authorized navigation improvement projects.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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.