

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Sprenger
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Girod

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 25 – 0 – 1

House

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

Nays:

Exc: McLane

Senate

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

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Doug Wilson, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 25, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates STEM Investment Council charged with advancement of educational initiatives in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Establishes STEM Investment Grant Program to fund programs and STEM Investment Account but no money is appropriated for the program at this time. Emphasizes funding for STEM programs that are elements of partnerships or regional strategies to improve STEM achievement. Requires STEM Council to report progress annually to Legislative Assembly. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED: None.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies the responsibilities of the Council, makes the Council voluntary (no per diem), and removes eligibility for expense reimbursement for Council members. The amendment also removes the appropriation section for the grant program.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 4056 (2012) established the Joint Interim Task Force on STEM Access and Success to encourage students to study STEM subjects. Among the legislative recommendations are the following: “The Task Force recommends the establishment of an entity within the office of the Chief Education Officer responsible for developing, coordinating and advancing STEM learning and industry engagement in Oregon. In this report, we refer to the entity as the STEM Council, which is envisioned as a partnership between the public and private sectors with responsibility for a adopting and advancing an ambitious agenda for STEM education, including clearly articulated goals for K-12 and post-secondary education systems; developing and managing the infrastructure for STEM Hubs; administering moneys appropriated from the general fund for STEM development; and ensuring appropriate resource distribution and accountability for STEM Hubs and other programs funded to advance STEM education through a competitive grant process.”