

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued**

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means  
**Vote:** 7 - 0 - 0  
**Yeas:** Cameron, Davis, Holvey, McKeown, Thatcher, Unger, Clem  
**Nays:** 0  
**Exc.:** 0  
**Prepared By:** Beth Reiley, Administrator  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/11, 2/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires certain state agencies responsible for grant, loan or incentive programs to use regional priorities for community and economic development in consideration of project funding and base decisions on whether project will meet certain objectives. Requires natural resource agencies to collaborate and deliver plan to Governor describing how natural resource agencies will participate in regional solutions teams. Requires state agencies responsible for grant, loan or incentive programs to collaborate with Regional Solutions Program to integrate state investments, services and resources. Establishes Regional Solutions Program within Governor's Office consisting of regional solutions centers, teams and advisory committees. Requires regional solutions coordinators to convene stakeholders with assistance of Oregon Consensus Program for purpose of providing alternative dispute resolution services to resolve any disputed issues when implementing projects involving significant environmental issues. Establishes regional solutions advisory committees for each region. Requires Governor and Director of Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to develop process for public comment at regional advisory committee meetings before beginning of 2015 legislative session.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Examples of successful regional solutions projects
- Regional Solutions Program does not currently exist in statute

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Defines natural resource agency. Requires agencies, consistent with enabling legislation, rules and regulations to use regional priorities for community and economic development in the consideration of funding decisions. Requires natural resource agencies to collaborate and deliver plan to Governor describing how natural resource agencies will participate in regional solutions teams. Requires agency directors and staff to work with regional solutions coordinators and teams to fulfill regional priorities. Requires regional solutions coordinators to convene stakeholders with assistance of Oregon Consensus Program for purpose of providing alternative dispute resolution services to resolve any disputed issues when implementing projects that involve significant environmental issues. Requires regional solutions advisory committee to consider whether project proposal seeks to address state's economically, socially and environmentally sustainable goals and objectives. Requires Governor and Director of DAS to develop process for public comment and consideration of public comments at regional advisory committee meetings before beginning of 2015 legislative session.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2013 the Legislature passed House Bill 2620 which directed the Governor, in coordination with the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, to develop a plan to align state economic and community development programs with regional priorities to present to the 2014 Legislature. As a part of this process a Project Steering Team surveyed over 2,100 Oregonians to identify barriers that prevent growth and prosperity on a regional level and then to help envision new ways of delivering services. The Project Steering Team made the short term recommendation that the initial focus should be placed on integrating regional solutions priorities in awarding processes for statewide grants and loans relating to economic and community development.

House Bill 4015 A addresses the work of the Project Steering Team by requiring state agencies to consider certain factors and prioritize funding of projects that affect regional community and economic development and to collaborate with Regional Solutions Program to integrate state investments, services and resources.

2/14/2014 12:12:00 PM

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