

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

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

Revenue:

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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

Vote:

House

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Steve Bender, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: March 3, 2014

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Regional Solutions Program within Governor’s Office consisting of regional solutions centers, teams and advisory committees. Requires certain state agencies responsible for grant, loan or incentive programs to consider regional priorities for community and economic development, as designated by regional solutions advisory committees, in consideration of project funding decisions. Requires natural resource agencies to collaborate and deliver a plan to Governor describing how natural resource agencies will participate in regional solutions teams by July 1, 2014. 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. 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. Declares emergency, takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current Regional Solutions Program structure
- Impacts of bill on the functions and operations of the Regional Solutions Program
- Impact on state agency programs
- Need for additional legislation in the 2015 session to specify fiscal operations of the Regional Solutions Program and the process for developing and identifying project funding requests

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Eliminates requirement that identified state agencies collaborate with the Regional Solutions Program on the integration of state investments and services; and on the alignment of their grant, loan and incentive program priorities with Regional Solutions priorities. Eliminates the establishment of authority for the Regional Solutions Program to integrate state and local government efforts to complete regional implementation projects. Eliminates authority of Regional Solutions teams to require additional state agencies to consider regional priorities in their program funding decisions. Establishes a July 1, 2014 deadline for delivery of the natural resource agencies’ plan for participating in regional solution teams. Adds emergency clause and made bill effective on passage.

BACKGROUND: The 2013-15 legislatively adopted budget includes up to \$10 million of lottery revenue bond proceeds to fund regional solutions team-identified priority projects. 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. The Project Steering Team recommended that the initial focus be placed on integrating regional solutions priorities in awarding processes for statewide grants and loans relating to economic and community development.