

REVENUE:

FISCAL:

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: James LaBar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates Oregon Intellectual Property Protection Corporation to protect businesses' intellectual property rights, promote research and development of new technologies and manage the Corporation's funds and assets. Specifies Corporation is government entity that performs governmental functions and exercises governmental powers, but is not a municipality, local government, or state agency. Directs Governor to appoint Board of five directors for terms of four years, subject to Senate confirmation. Establishes the Oregon Intellectual Property Fund and enables Board to invest moneys from fund for continuing purposes of corporation. Requires Secretary of State to conduct annual audit of corporation and Fund and issue report to Governor, President of Senate, and Speaker of House.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 17 authorizes the creation of the Oregon Intellectual Property Protection Corporation, an independent public corporation, with the authority to defend and litigate intellectual property claims on behalf of Oregon businesses. The measure would allow the Corporation to develop a program whereby Oregon businesses would contribute to the Corporation, which would, in turn, pool the resources and use the resulting moneys to protect member businesses.

Advocates of Senate Bill 17 report a major obstacle facing emerging enterprises in Oregon is infringement on intellectual property rights, such as patent, copyright, or trademark. Due to the risk of infringement, some investors in emerging businesses do not value a company's intellectual property portfolio at its full capacity, leading to less investment opportunities in Oregon start-up companies.