

REVENUE: No Revenue Impact
FISCAL: No Fiscal Impact
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: James LaBar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes rural ports to acquire and operate telecommunications and infrastructure facilities.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Chapter 777 of the Oregon Revised Statutes outlines the general authority and powers of Oregon's system of 23 public ports; Chapter 778 outlines additional statutory guidelines for the Port of Portland. Oregon ports are operated by locally-elected boards of commissioners, with the exception of the Port of Portland and International Port of Coos Bay, whose boards are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. They are authorized to generate income through bonding, user fees, taxation and other sources. Currently, ORS 777 does not authorize Oregon ports to acquire, own and operate telecommunications infrastructure. House Bill 3104-A expands the statutory authority of rural ports to include telecommunications.

The vote count in the Transportation and Economic Development Committee was 5-0-2, and the House vote count was 57-0-3.