

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue**

**Fiscal:** May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

**Revenue:** May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

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**Action Date:**

**Action:**

**Meeting Dates:**

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Expands existing property tax exemption available to charitable, literary and scientific organizations to include real and personal property owned or leased by a history museum or science museum if property is used to fulfill the mission of the museum and is used or occupied for one or more specific qualifying purposes. Qualifying purposes include: food service facility or concession, retail store, parking lot, theater located in a museum, unimproved land that is not specially assessed, displays, storage areas, and educational classrooms or meeting areas. Defines history museum or science museum as nonprofit corporation organized to display historical or scientific exhibits, or both, to the public. Specifies that exemption does not apply to property used or occupied as a hotel, water park, chapel or for any commercial enterprise. Applies to property tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2015.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under existing statute, ORS 307.130, qualifying property owned or being purchased by art museums, volunteer fire departments, or incorporated literary, benevolent, charitable or scientific institutions is exempt from property taxation. Only such real or personal property or proportion thereof, that is actually and exclusively occupied or used in the literary, benevolent, charitable or scientific work carried on by such institutions is exempt. Existing law will generally allow for nonprofit owned museums to be exempt either partially or fully from property taxation. It can be argued that ORS 307.130 contains a level of ambiguity that can lead to disagreements in the applicability of the exemption to different properties or portions of property owned by nonprofit corporations.