

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the 15-member Task Force on Researching the Medical and Public Health Properties of Cannabis and specifies the duties of the Task Force. Requires the Task Force to develop recommendations and report to the Legislature by December 15, 2015, and then again by February 1, 2016.

Allows persons convicted of a criminal offense involving marijuana, as specified, to be eligible for order of expunction. Further specifies conditions that must be met for eligibility.

Allows organizations or facilities providing palliative care to be designated as an additional caregiver to a medical marijuana cardholder with a debilitating medical condition, as defined. Specifies that beginning March 1, 2016, transplant hospitals may not disqualify a medical marijuana cardholder from receiving a transplant based solely on participation in the medical marijuana program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Fiscal impact of the measure.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1998, Oregon voters approved Ballot Measure 67, which allowed medical use of marijuana in Oregon within specified limits. It also established a state-controlled permit system. In December 1998, the Oregon Legislature passed Measure 67 into law. The law, known as the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act which provides legal protections for qualified patients, requires a physician-written statement of the patient's qualifying debilitating medical condition, allows for a caregiver to provide assistance, and mandates a registration system under the direction of the Oregon Health Authority.