

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Senate Committee On Business and Transportation****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 03/23/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.  
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 03/23**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

**Prepared By:** James LaBar, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Appropriates \$11,225,000 from General Fund to Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for use by State Fair Council for conducting Oregon State Fair, carrying out state fairground business operations and operating state fairground properties and facilities. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of the Oregon State Fair
- Other state fairs in the nation
- Condition of the fairground properties
- Benefits and values of attending and participating in the Oregon State Fair
- Usage of fairgrounds during the year

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Appropriates \$3,750,000 out of the General Fund, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, for the operation of the State Fair Council, Oregon State Fair and start-up expenses. Appropriates \$7,475,000 out of the General Fund, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, which may be expended for the repair, deferred maintenance or insurance of state fairground properties and facilities or for capital expenditures for buildings, furniture, fixtures or equipment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oregon State Fair began in 1858 as an agricultural exhibition and expanded in 1977 to include an exposition center. In 1981, the Legislative Assembly directed the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center (Fair) to become financially self-supporting and removed General Fund support. In 1986, the Legislative Assembly authorized the Fair to sell up to \$10 million in revenue bonds to renovate the horse stadium, build a new livestock pavilion, and construct an outdoor amphitheater. The Fair, however, was unable to generate sufficient revenue to meet both operating and maintenance costs. In 1997, the Legislative Assembly directed the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to evaluate and identify solutions to the Fair's problems.