

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/08/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/04, 03/11, 04/08

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley

Exc: 1 - Thomsen

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes counties to sell or donate property to eligible Indian tribes in Oregon. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- All thirty-six counties in Oregon support the measure
- Indian tribes in Oregon
- Oregon history with indigenous peoples
- Adjacent Indian tribe territories
- Amendment considerations regarding right of first refusal for adjacent Indian tribe territories

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current law enables counties to grant an option to purchase, contract to sell and convey or donate county lands to the state or federal government. Senate Bill 548 authorizes such transactions with any recognized Oregon tribe. It streamlines the process, for example, of transferring county-tax-foreclosed lands to the tribes for burial grounds, shell middens, sacred sites, or for economic development as the county can presently do with the state and other local governments.

The eligible Indian tribes, as defined in ORS 307.181, include: the Burns Paiute Tribe; the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon; the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon; the Coquille Indian Tribe; the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; and the Klamath Tribes.