

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/15/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 03/23, 04/15

Vote:

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

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Administrative Services to provide a method for users to offer suggestions regarding the form or content of the Oregon transparency website on the homepage of the website. Requires the posting on Oregon transparency website of economic development information related to Oregon Product Investment Fund, Beginning and Expanding Farmer Loan Program, Oregon Innovation Council and strategic investment program, as well as annual reports regarding certain tax expenditures. Requires posting of description of process for requesting public records from public bodies. Enables local governments to post notices of public meetings.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Additional amendment considerations
- Other state comparisons for transparency and website content, including Utah
- Access to more information, but the need to better organize the content so it is more user-friendly
- Tension between existing resources at the Department of Administration Services and managing more content on the website

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes posting reference to names of taxpayers who claimed credit for qualified research expenses.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon transparency website was created to be a tool to help citizens inform themselves on the operations of state government, how government works, how tax dollars are spent and how purchasing decisions are made. Senate Bill 515A is an attempt to increase transparency and access to vital information by requiring information to be posted to the Oregon transparency website regarding programs such as the Oregon Product Investment Fund, the Beginning and Expanding Farmer Loan Program and other economic development programs.