

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference
(Printed A-Eng).

Meeting Dates: 04/16, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates moneys out of Administrative Services Economic Development Fund for biennium beginning July 1, 2015 to Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to be expended for use by Oregon State University (OSU), in cooperation with University of Oregon (UO), for operation of center for manufacturing and design of advanced wood products

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of legislation on manufacturing jobs
- Collaboration between universities
- Need for additional research to maximize utilization of natural resources and market opportunities
- Impact of legislation on economic development in rural communities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Allocates moneys from Administrative Services Economic Development Fund rather than from General Fund.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Forest Facts and Figures (Oregon Forest Resources Institute, 2015) reports that nearly half of Oregon is forestland, and that some 80 percent of this forestland is “timberland” – land that can grow commercial-grade timber. The forest sector, which is the part of the economy that is derived from forests, supported an estimated 59,000 jobs in Oregon in 2013 (Oregon Employment Department). In addition to generating jobs, the harvesting and processing of Oregon’s timber leads to the development and sale of advanced wood products, including but not limited to plywood, engineered wood products (e.g., cross-laminated timber), reconstituted wood products (e.g., particleboard), and a number of other products used for building, furnishings, packaging, printing etc.

Senate Bill 950-A proposes to appropriate \$3,400,000 out of the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to HECC, which may be expended for use by the College of Forestry at OSU, in cooperation with UO, to operate a center for the manufacturing and design of advanced wood products.