

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/26/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/19, 05/26

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Buehler, Fagan, Holvey, McLain, Nearman, Rayfield, Stark

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Administrative Services to provide a method for users of the Oregon Transparency Website to offer suggestions regarding the website's form or content. Requires posting on Oregon Transparency Website of economic development information relating to the Oregon Product Investment Fund, the Beginning and Expanding Farmer Loan Program, the Oregon Innovation Council and Strategic Investment Program, as well as reports on certain tax expenditures. Requires posting of description of the process for requesting public records from public bodies. Authorizes local governments to post notices of public meetings.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Oregon Transparency Website
- Website ranks second in nation for state transparency
- Importance of measuring efficacy of economic development programs
- Method for implementing public suggestions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Transparency Website is 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 515-A continues to increase transparency and access to vital information by requiring information to be posted on 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.