

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/28/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/28

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Exc: 1 - Boquist

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to develop and administer, or enter into contract with private entity to develop and administer, training program for members, administrators or directors of boards, commissions and small entities of executive department. Lists requirements of training program. Requires each new member and new administrator or director of board, commission or small entity of executive department to attend training within six months of start of member's service or administrator or director's employment. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definition and number of small entities of executive branch
- Topics included as part of training program
- Current functionality of boards and commissions
- Inconsistency in training new board and commission members
- Tailoring training towards specific mission of board, commission or agency

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon has over 250 boards, commissions and councils to help protect the health, welfare and safety of the public. Board members are often subject matter experts and represent diverse stakeholder views. This allows boards to better fulfill governmental functions and engage citizens in government. While boards vary in the functions they perform, Oregon has five types: advisory, policy making, governing, licensing and judgment boards.

Once appointed, board members are encouraged to read the Governor's Membership Handbook, which provides advice on being an effective board member, including relevant laws, and discussion on where to get information and help. However, any additional formal training is dependent on the board or commission because currently the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) does not offer training for new and returning board members to introduce them to the workings of government, provide explanations of relevant laws and rules (e.g., Public Records and Meeting Laws, contracting rules, etc.) and to provide references to resources the members were likely to need.

Some boards provide their own training to incoming members, with training being robust, including information about how the state works, the board's administrative processes and policies, the expectations of board members and the role of the board within their particular industry. However, some board members are not provided with any training and must learn as they go from the other tenured members, or rely heavily on board staff to help ensure they are following state rules and performing as expected.

Senate Bill 966 requires DAS to develop and administer a training program to provide training and instruction on: government ethics laws, restrictions on political activities that apply to public officials and employees, public records and meetings law and other issues of benefit. Training will be offered four times per year to all new members or employees of any board, commission, or other small entity of the executive department, whom must attend one within six months of start of service.