

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Rules****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 02/16/16**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.
(Printed A-Eng).**Meeting Dates:** 02/16**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Joint Legislative Policy and Research Committee (JLPRC). Specifies composition of JLPRC as equal number of majority and minority party members including Speaker and President. Establishes that JLPRC is appointed by Speaker and President and that new JLPRC is appointed within 30 days after each odd-numbered year session is convened. Directs JLPRC to employ Legislative Policy and Research director and fix director's annual salary. Outlines director's responsibilities including: 1) prepare or assist in preparing legislative research and facilitate development of policy when requested to do so by member or legislative committee; 2) provide advice and assistance to committees; 3) supervise support of clerical and administrative services to session and interim committees including ensuring adequacy of staff; and 4) provide research facilities and services to members and legislative committees. Permits director to employ professional staff and other employees. Establishes that expiration of members' term on JLPRC does not affect employment of individuals previously approved by JLPRC. Allows director to employ and fix compensation of staff between start of odd-numbered year session until such time when newly appointed committee may provide otherwise. Establishes that President and Speaker may jointly appoint new director if vacancy occurs. Transfers specific duties of Legislative Administration Committee (LAC) to JLPRC. Requires JLPRC or director to adhere to laws applicable to other legislative branch agencies including public records and statement of economic interest filings. Transfers financial estimate committee and explanatory statement committee duties from LAC to JLPRC. Transfers current committee and task force staffing from LAC to JLPRC. Makes specific sections of Act operative on July 1, 2017. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislative work group considerations and recommendations
- Improving legislature's ability to set public policy with non-partisan research reports
- Establishment of independent research office within Legislative Assembly
- Recommendation independent office have oversight by bipartisan legislative committee
- Fiscal impact of establishing JLPRC

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Makes specific sections of measure operative on July 1, 2017. Specifies composition of Joint Legislative Policy and Research Committee (JLPRC) to be equal number of majority and minority party members including Speaker and President. Establishes that JLPRC is appointed by Speaker and President and that new JLPRC is appointed within 30 days after convening of odd-numbered year legislative session.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014-15, a bipartisan group of legislators representing the House and Senate participated in several work group meetings with the assistance of outside consultants. The work group examined and discussed models for improving the legislature's policy capacity. Interviews with members and round table discussions with staff also took place.

The results, discussion and several models for consideration were outlined in a report, “Enhancing Independent Policy Research for the Oregon State Legislature.”