

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/25/16

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 02/25

Vote:

House

Yeas: 12 - Buckley, Gomberg, Huffman, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Rayfield, Read, Smith, Whisnant, Whitsett, Williamson

Senate

Yeas: 11 - Bates, Devlin, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Roblan, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Whitsett

Exc: 1 - Winters

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Joint Legislative Policy and Research Committee and specifies composition and duties of the Committee. Specifies duties of the Legislative Policy and Research Director and staff to be hired by the Director. Transfers, staff, funds, and specific duties from the Legislative Administration Committee to the Joint Legislative Policy and Research Committee.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of the work that was done that resulted in the bill.
- The importance of adequate and qualified staff to conduct research for the Legislature.
- The importance of having an equal number of majority and minority party members on the Committee.
- Additional work that will need to be done in the future on the new function.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.” Those findings are the basis for the model that is included in this measure.