

**HB 2399 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development**

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**Prepared By:** Laura Kentnesse, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/7

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes Condon Collection at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History (MNCH) as official depository for paleontological material that may come into the possession of the State of Oregon. Assigns responsibility for material custody and safekeeping to the University of Oregon MNCH. Precludes interference with existing collections in the possession of any post-secondary institution of education in Oregon. Allows individuals and private entities to gift a paleontological collection directly to any institution.

*REVENUE: No Revenue Impact*

*FISCAL: No statement yet issued*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:**

The University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History (MNCH) is the largest natural history museum in Oregon, and is known as a center of paleontological and archeological collections in the Pacific Northwest. The MNCH has been the official repository for archaeological artifacts in Oregon statute since 1937. House Bill 2399 replicates that codification for paleontological artifacts.

The University of Oregon reports that this official designation would help ensure artifacts dispersed through commercial or private interests find a safe, long-term home, as well as build the museum's reputation and ability to serve as a local educational resource for paleontology.