

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 755

80th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2019 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Date: 3/15/2019

Measure Description:

Establishes Citizens' Initiative Review Commission Endowment Fund and Operating Subaccount.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Citizens' Initiative Review Commission (CIRC), Oregon State Treasurer (OST)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate, but anticipated to be minimal - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

SB 755 establishes the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission Endowment Fund with an operating subaccount. Interests earned by the fund and the subaccount are to be credited to the subaccount. Moneys in the subaccount are continuously appropriated to the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission (CIRC) for carrying out its duties. The measure prohibits CIRC from carrying out its duties if there are insufficient funds in the subaccount. The measure authorizes CIRC to accept contributions from public and private sources. The measure prohibits contributions from specified entities. CIRC must make certain contributions available to the public online.

Oregon State Treasurer (OST)

The fiscal impact of the measure on the Oregon State Treasurer is indeterminate but anticipated to be minimal. Under current statutes and practice, OST does not provide services to semi-independent agencies. If this bill becomes law, OST would require additional legal review and potentially policy, system, or operational changes to adapt its operations to provide banking and cash management services for entities that are otherwise exempt from typical budget or accounting review, controls, or approvals that are required of state agencies that receive banking and cash management services from Treasury.

Citizens' Initiative Review Commission (CIRC)

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the measure establishes a fund and subaccount for which revenue sources have yet to be identified and suggests that CIRC may need to dedicate resources to apply for grants or perform private fundraising activities. While this option provides the agency flexibility, LFO is concerned that this language may set unrealistic expectations for future funding requests from the Legislative Assembly.

In addition, note that CIRC is a semi-independent agency. Although the agency is subject to certain reporting requirements and a review by LFO every two years, the agency's budget is not subject to Executive Branch review, or approval or modification by the Legislative Assembly.