

SB 755 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 03/25/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Burdick, Dembrow, Roblan

Nays: 1 - Baertschiger Jr

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Josh Nasbe, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/18, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Citizens' Initiative Review Commission Endowment Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value added
- Avoiding partisan influence

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Appropriates moneys in fund to Department of Administrative Services, for distribution to Citizen Initiative Review Commission. Authorizes investment of moneys in fund.

BACKGROUND:

Following a series of pilot programs, the Legislative Assembly permanently established the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission in statute in 2011. The Commission is a semi-independent state agency, tasked with convening citizen panels to review selected ballot measures and prepare voters' pamphlet statements on the measures. Under current law, the Commission is authorized to accept contributions from any source other than a political committee, for-profit corporation or union, as well as any source the Commission determines might be used to transfer money from one of these entities. If a person contributes to the Commission more than \$100 in a calendar year, the Commission is required to post on the Internet, within 14 days, the name and address of the person or entity making the contribution, as well as the amount of the contribution.

Senate Bill 755 A creates the Citizens' Initiative Review Commission Endowment Fund that includes an operating subaccount. Funds in the operating subaccount are continuously appropriated to the Department of Administrative Services, for distribution to the Commission. Much like the Commission itself, the Endowment Fund and operating account may accept contributions from limited sources and must publicly disclose, within 14 days, those contributions that exceed \$100. Senate Bill 755 A takes effect January 1, 2020.