

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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

Measure: HB 2179 - A

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

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Date: April 8, 2019

Measure Description:

Establishes Task Force on Blockchain Applications and Legislation.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Oregon State Treasurer (OST), Legislative Assembly, Secretary of State (SOS), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

HB 2179 creates the 14-member Task Force on Blockchain Applications and Legislation charged with studying and evaluating the status and development of blockchain technology, investigate potential uses for the technology for economic development and business transactions and make recommendations for any changes necessary in state statutes that can promote adopting, using and developing blockchain technologies. The task force must report to the Legislature by September 15, 2020. The task force sunsets on December 31, 2020.

Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO)

The fiscal impact of this bill on LPRO is indeterminate depending on the scope of work undertaken by the task force. The bill requires LPRO to provide staff support to the task force. Although the 2019-21 Legislative Branch budget should contain funds allocated for LPRO support of interim committees and task forces, the bill authorizes the task force to consult experts as well as conduct surveys and research. If the task force determines that it would need to contract these activities to a consultant with specialized expertise, it is assumed that LPRO would be required to fund these activities. These costs cannot be quantified until the task force convenes and defines the scope of these activities.

Legislative Assembly

The bill specifies that public members of the task force serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation and reimbursement. However, two members of the task force will be legislative members who are entitled to per diem and travel reimbursement. The estimated per diem and travel reimbursement cost for the two legislative members is \$420 per day. This amount includes the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) tax, and assumes per diem remains at \$149 per day, and the average mileage of 90 miles at the current rate of \$0.58 per mile. Although the 2019-21 Legislative Assembly budget contains funds allocated for interim committees and task forces, if the work required by this task force, or if the cumulative enactment of other legislation with interim committees and task forces exceeds expenditure levels beyond those assumed in the 2019-21 budget, additional General Fund resources may be required. The task force would not incur additional costs to the Legislative Assembly budget if the meetings are held at the Capitol building during Legislative Session, Task force or Legislative Days.

The measure is anticipated to have minimal impact on the Department of Administrative Services, the Department of Consumer and Business Services, the Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of State, Department of Justice, Oregon State Treasurer. This fiscal analysis assumes these agencies will use existing staff and resources to serve on the task force.