

HB 2092 A -A5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tim Walker, Fiscal Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/10, 6/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies responsibilities of Oregon Youth Employment Program. Allows Youth Employment Program to access federal funds for operations. Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide grants to local workforce development boards after allocating funds to Oregon Youth Corps. Appropriates \$11,768,289 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the upcoming biennium to administer grants. Requires commission to allocate no less than 20 percent of program funds to organizations that serve communities of color. Mandates that 75 percent of Youth Employment Program participants come from certain communities. Requires Youth Employment Program pay minimum wage or higher to participants except for programs that are restricted under state or federal law. Requires Youth Employment Program develop community engagement plan and offer English language learner and accessibility services. Modifies data collection requirements for Youth Employment Program. Moves Oregon Youth Corps and Oregon Community Stewardship Corps to Oregon Youth Employment Program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Merits of the bill

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A5 Deletes Section 4 that appropriated General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Committee.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Youth Employment Program was created in Senate Bill 175 (2011) as part of a broader legislative initiative on workforce development. The Youth Employment Program requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to partner with local workforce development boards to provide work experience and training for youth ages 14 to 24. In 2014, the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act replaced the earlier Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and offered funds to state and local workforce development boards for employment programs.

The Oregon Youth Corps and Oregon Community Stewardship Corps are separate programs housed within HECC that provide youth with community service opportunities. The Oregon Youth Corps offers emergency services, public conservation, rehabilitation, and improvement programs, while the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps promotes community service activities such as childcare services, literacy education programs, and waste reduction services.

House Bill 2092 modifies responsibilities and requirements of Oregon Youth Employment Program, appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for grants for the program, allows the program to access federal funds for operations, and consolidates the Oregon Youth Corps and the Oregon Community Stewardship Corps into the Oregon Youth Employment Program.