

HB 3017 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/24, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Awards a grant to nonprofit High Desert Partnership to support collaborative approaches to public issues. Appropriates \$2.5 million to Oregon Solutions at Portland State University through HECC for the purpose of awarding the grant.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for skilled facilitators
- Capacity to expand collaboration to surrounding counties

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

High Desert Partnership has operated in Harney County since 1999. The organization supports local collaborative groups in addressing economic and environmental issues; its current runs collaboratives focused on wildlife conservation, wetlands, forest restoration, wildfire, business, and youth. According to records from the Oregon Department of Justice, the nonprofit's revenue grew from \$625,844 in 2017 to \$2,173,634 in 2021. During the same period, expenses for program services grew from \$319,025 to \$1,713,863.

Oregon Solutions is a publicly funded entity that takes a collaborative approach to addressing public policy issues. Originally located in the Governor's office, Oregon Solutions has been housed at Portland State University's National Policy Consensus Center since 2001. Oregon Solutions typically selects projects and submits them to the governor for approval; it also reports back to the governor six months after project implementation begins.

HB 3017 directs Oregon Solutions to award a grant to High Desert Partnership in Harney County for the establishment of a collaborative center.