

HB 3017 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education

Action Date: 02/07/23

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Bowman, Elmer, Hudson, Lively, Mannix, McIntire, Ruiz, Sosa, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/24, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Awards 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 the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, for purpose of awarding grant. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

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 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.

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