

SB 885 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/04/23

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Anderson, Dembrow, Frederick, Gelsner Blouin, President Wagner, Weber

Nays: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$205,000 General Fund to State Library of Oregon (SLO) to hire consultant to help libraries apply for federal moneys to provide broadband access. Appropriates \$750,000 General Fund to SLO for deposit in Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Leveraging federal funding
- Libraries' ability to expand broadband access within communities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The federal [E-Rate program](#), administered by the Federal Communications Commission, helps schools and libraries obtain affordable broadband. The [State Library of Oregon](#) (SLO) publishes information about the program, eligibility for participation, and the application process. House Bill 4092 (2022) created the Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund as part of a telecommunications omnibus. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the State Library of Oregon to match federal dollars received by libraries to provide broadband access.

Senate Bill 885 appropriates \$205,000 from the General Fund to the State Library of Oregon to hire a consultant to help libraries apply for federal moneys to provide broadband access, and appropriates \$750,000 from the General Fund to the Connecting Oregon Libraries Fund to match federal dollars received by libraries to provide broadband access.