

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/17, 1/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service to identify and adopt best practices related to screening and supervising volunteers and conducting criminal record checks on volunteers. Requires the commission to give special attention to developing best practices related to volunteers that have unsupervised access to children and other vulnerable populations. Requires commission to establish an outreach program to disseminate best practices.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Work done by volunteers across the state
- Lack of screening in organizations that currently use volunteers
- Need for development of best practices and information about associated costs
- Concern about unintended consequences leading to screening requirements

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service (Oregon Volunteers) promotes and supports volunteerism throughout the state. Oregon Volunteers undertook a survey of 125 nonprofit and educational institutions that use volunteers and found that many of them did little or no screening, although many volunteers work with youth and other vulnerable populations.